

INTERNATIONAL

Billions of viruses detected in lake

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (UPI) Scientists reported Wednesday the concentration of viruses in lake and sea water may be up to 10 million times greater than previously thought, finding that shakes existing views on the dynamics of underwater life.

Norwegian researchers detected 1.25 billion viruses in about a teaspoonful of water from a West German lake — a level 1,000 to 10 million times greater than prior scientific estimates.

The minuscule viruses, which measure less than 0.2 millionths of a metre, are a type that preys on bacteria and is not known to infect animals or humans. They are the smallest living particles yet to be found in river, lake or sea water.

The University of Bergen's Gunnar Bratbak and his colleagues said it had generally been assumed that relatively new viruses inhabit natural, unpolluted water and therefore they were "ecologically unimportant."

But a study published in the British journal Nature, Bratbak's team said its careful examination of water with an electron microscope found otherwise.

At levels found in Germany's Lake Plusssee in May 1988, researchers said viruses could play a significant role in keeping bacteria populations in check. Scientists have long been puzzled by unexplainably high death rates of bacteria in some waters.

Based on their study, the Norwegians estimated "as much as one-third of the bacterial population may experience a (virus) attack each day."

In addition, the high concentration opens the possibility that viruses may play a key role in transferring genetic information between various types of bacteria.

Viruses are minute packets of genetic material that must infect cells of other organisms and take over their genetic machinery in order to multiply.

Commenting in Nature, Evelyn Sherr of the University of Georgia Marine Institute said the findings indicate "Natural genetic engineering experiments may have been occurring in bacterial populations for eons."

On the positive side, virus-facilitated genetic transfers may enable bacteria to naturally develop enzymes to act on chemicals introduced into the environment, Sherr said.

Davis embryos 'in concentration camp of the freezer'

MARYVILLE, Tennessee, Aug. 11. (UPI) A famed French geneticist urged a judge to award custody of seven frozen embryos to the wife in a landmark divorce trial so she can "rescue her babies from the concentration camp of the freezer."

After the testimony of Jerome LeJeune, lawyers made their final pleas yesterday to Blount County Circuit Judge W. Dale Young, who said he will decide the fate of the embryos within 30 days.

LeJeune, who discovered the cause of Down's Syndrome in 1959, was called as the final witness for Mary Sue Davis, 28, the childless woman who wants to have a baby using the embryos she formed with her husband at a fertility centre before he filed for divorce in February.

Junior Lewis Davis, 30, wants the seven fertilised eggs kept indefinitely in frozen storage, arguing their use after the divorce would force him into fatherhood against his will.

LeJeune testified that embryos are human life, even if formed in a laboratory dish through in vitro fertilisation.

"We now have proof that embryos are not spare parts or experimental material or commodities or property," he said. "An early human being cannot be the property of anybody. I was deeply moved when I found out this woman wanted to rescue her babies from the concentration camp of the freezer."

But in closing arguments, Junior Davis's lawyer, Charles Clifford, declared, "Embryos have no rights," and asked the judge to spare his client the burden of unwanted fatherhood.

"I think it is very clear from the testimony that embryos are not human beings. I think it is also clear that they are not entitled to legal representation under the laws of the United States or this state. They cannot think, feel or know."

"If you rule in her favour that will

place a burden on him that he must live with for the rest of his life. If you allow her to be a mother, then you must also make him a father," Clifford said.

Mary Sue Davis's lawyer, Jay Christensen, acknowledged that the judge faces a moral dilemma but said, "When we consider the facts in this case, we end up with the plea of a woman asking for her right to have her child, which is now in storage. It's the yearning of a woman to be a mother."

LeJeune told Young that embryos

created through in vitro fertilisation are not mere tissue, but become life instances after the artificial union of sperm and ovum.

"The youngest form of human being starts as the egg is fertilised. As soon as he is conceived, a man is a man," he said.

LeJeune's testimony countered that of John Robertson, a University of Texas law professor who serves on the ethics committee of the American Fertility Society.

Test detects disease earlier

Affairs of the heart

LONDON, Aug. 11. (Agencies) British scientists have developed a means of detecting heart disease in its earliest stages and believe it could be used for mass screening of the population, a medical journal said yesterday.

The British Heart Journal said their method of "magnetic resonance diagnosis" could detect diseases such as atheroma long before they damage blood vessels and cause heart attacks — the single biggest cause of early death in Britain.

"This test... is the loudest possible warning signal of heart disease. Our objective is to have fleets of mobile units going around the country screening people," Professor Donald Longmooir, director of the Corda Heart Charity which supported the research, told a news conference.

The British Heart Journal said the method

developed by the doctors of the London National Heart and Chest Hospitals involved computer analysis of faint signals given off by the atoms and molecules that make up human tissue.

The researchers also said they had "discovered a link between the elasticity of the aorta, the main blood vessel leading to the heart and the occurrence of coronary artery disease."

They also "discovered a method of analysing atheroma, the diseased tissue in the blood vessels, with the aim of determining whether the disease process is active and treatable, or is in its irreversible end state."

Two heart drugs raise the risk of death in heart attack survivors who take them for mild or asymptomatic irregular heartbeats, according to a study out yesterday.

New fertility method hailed

Called cheaper, safer

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, Aug. 11. (AP) A fertility method new to the United States is safer and less expensive than other artificial methods, a doctor said yesterday in announcing the birth of twins to a couple who used the procedure.

In peritoneal ovum sperm transfer, or POST, mature eggs are removed from the mother's ovaries and placed along with sperm into the peritoneal cavity, near the ends of the fallopian tubes. The egg enters the fallopian tubes, where it is fertilised, and travels to the uterus for the remainder of gestation.

Unlike in vitro fertilisation, the procedure can be done in a doctor's office in less than an hour with only local anaesthesia, said Dr Carolyn B. Coulam, medical director of the Centre for Reproduction and Transplantation Immunology at Methodist Hospital.

With no hospitalisation required, POST costs about \$4,000 compared with \$6,000 for in vitro fertilisation, Coulam said.

"The risks are remarkably less. Moreover, the costs are less," she said.

The doctor said Jane and Michael Donlan of Indianapolis, Indiana, became the parents of the first children conceived in the United States under the procedure. Craig Thomas Donlan, who weighed 7 pounds 4 ounces (3 kilograms) and his fraternal twin brother, Kyle Robert, at 6 pounds 6 ounces (2.7 kilograms) 170 grammes), were born 12 minutes apart Saturday night without complications.

Coulam said she believed the first children born under an artificial POST procedure were in London, based on a report of three pregnancies there in 1987. She said she knows of no others.

"We are just thrilled that this procedure has helped us extend our family and bring us these two beautiful babies," Mrs Donlan said, surrounded by her family, including a 7-year-old daughter, Erin. "It's just really extremely frustrating to be infertile and not know why."

Donating organs of infants debated

BOSTON, Aug. 11. (AP) Doomed babies born without most of their brains should be considered dead so their organs can be removed immediately for transplants, two medical experts assert.

These infants, known as anencephalic babies, cannot survive, and physicians would like to salvage their hearts, livers and other organs for other babies. However, these organs usually cannot be used because they are damaged by lack of oxygen before the babies are pronounced dead.

In yesterday's New England Journal of Medicine, three articles consider ethical and practical issues involved in using anencephalic babies for transplants.

"I think there is a moral obligation to reconsider the issue," said Robert D. Truog, a paediatrician at Harvard Medical School. "There are children who die because these organs are not being used. We need to ask ourselves whether on balance we are not doing a greater harm by not using these organs."

Anencephalic babies are born with brain tissue which control breathing and some bodily functions, but the rest of their brains are missing. In current practice, doctors must wait until all brain stem activity stops before declaring the babies dead.

In a report written with bioethicist John C. Fletcher of the University of Virginia, Truog argues that doctors should be allowed — with parents' permission — to remove these babies' organs without regard for the criteria of brain death.

"Our proposal asserts that the anencephalic infant is not alive," they wrote.

In the same issue, Drs Donald N. Medearis Jr of Massachusetts General Hospital and Lewis B. Holmes of Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston countered that standards requiring complete brain death should be retained.

"Anencephalic infants are alive, and the length of their lives cannot be predicted accurately," they wrote.

But Dr Joyce Peschody, chief of the division of neonatology at Loma Linda University Medical Centre in California, argued the condition can be accurately diagnosed, and that however many infants that could be saved would be worthwhile.

"Clearly, changing the law so these infants can donate organs at the time of birth makes sense," Peschody said at a news conference.

"Emotionally it is a very difficult issue for people to consider. The idea that you would declare a child dead at birth is a very difficult one to consider."

Medearis and Holmes cautioned that making an exception for anencephalic infants might eventually lead to taking organs from people with other profound medical conditions, such as other babies with severe head malformations or adults in persistent vegetative states.

They also said that these babies would never be a major source of organs. They estimated that fewer than 200 anencephalic babies are born alive in the United States annually, and organs from some cannot be used because of other birth defects or difficulties matching organs with potential recipients.

In one approach to the situation, doctors at Loma Linda experimented with putting anencephalic babies in intensive care to try to keep their organs healthy until they died.



Race against time to save Kirill

Two-year-old Kirill Podorzanovskaya of the Soviet Union arrives at Kennedy airport, New York, for life-saving surgery. In a race against time, Kirill is fighting a brain tumour and will undergo an operation at the Montefiore Medical Centre. (Reuter wirephoto)

brain tumour and will undergo an operation at the Montefiore Medical Centre. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEWS IN BRIEF

In seclusion: Chantal Daigle went into seclusion in Quebec on Wednesday, waiting to hear whether her embittered ex-lover would press for contempt charges because she had an abortion before Canada's supreme court ruled she could do so.

In a landmark, unanimous ruling on Tuesday, the court struck down an injunction banning Daigle from having an abortion.

But Daigle's lawyer shocked the court midway through the proceedings by announcing that she had gone ahead with the abortion before the nine justices could rule on the case.

The court agreed to continue hearing the case and then ruled in her favour. But because of her action, some legal experts say Daigle could be found in contempt of court and face a year in jail and \$50,000-dollar (\$43,000) fine. (Reuter)

Swedish study: Women who smoke during pregnancy increase the risk of a late miscarriage by 40 per cent and double the chance that their child may suffer cot death, a Swedish study shows.

The study, published this week in the Swedish Medical Association's Journal, was based on all 300,000 births in Sweden between 1983 and 1985.

Doctors Sven Cnattingius and Bengt Haglund at Uppsala Hospital who conducted the study said their conclusions confirmed those made in a US study one year ago.

"Smoking particularly increases the risk of cot death in the first 10 weeks, and this strengthens the argument that smoking is a strong risk factor," the doctors wrote. (Reuter)

Women indicted: A teen-ager faces charges of aggravated battery for allegedly breaking the limbs of an infant sharing her son's hospital room.

Nekene Power, 17, of Chicago, was indicted Tuesday by a grand jury, and was scheduled for arraignment Aug. 24, said Maureen McNamee, a spokeswoman for the state's attorney's office.

A grand jury is a panel of citizens who review evidence and decide whether a case should go to trial and, if so, which charges should be filed.

Jasmine Ghossein was 25 days old when authorities at Mercy Hospital discovered that both her arms and one leg had been broken. Ms Power's 11-month-old son, Jeremie, and Jasmine were being treated for breathing problems, hospital officials said. (AP)

Dedicated dieter: Larry Coker is so excited about losing 575 pounds (260 kilograms) in 18 months he plans to celebrate with a banquet. Not the kind of spread one might expect, however.

"We'll have lots of salad and carrots and he wants a fruit bowl," said his mother, Barbara Coker.

Coker, who went from 750 to 175 pounds (340 kilograms to 79 kilograms), said he used to eat four hamburgers, a bag of corn chips and two liters of soda as a nighttime snack.

"I used to love to eat a half-pot of macaroni and cheese at one sitting," said Coker, 20.

While a student at Royal Oak Dondro High School, he used the freight elevator to get to classes on the second floor. At his peak weight, he owned only one T-shirt that fit.

Eating was a way of dealing with personal problems, including the divorce of his parents, Coker said. (AP)

Arrested for endangering: A pregnant woman who police say stuffed a quarter-ounce (seven grams) of cocaine into her mouth and swallowed it as she was being arrested was charged with causing a risk of injury to a minor.

If Nellie Baez, who is four months pregnant, is convicted, it would overturn Connecticut case law that holds that a fetus is not a person — a question central to the abortion debate, authorities said.

But lawmakers, civil libertarians and John J. Kelly, the chief state's attorney, doubted the charge would hold up in court because of a 1986 state court ruling that a fetus is not a person.

Baez, 20, was arrested Aug. 1 and arraigned Monday after being hospitalised. She also was charged with cocaine possession and tampering with evidence.

Police said the foetus appears to be fine. (AP)

Experts meet: Health experts were meeting yesterday in Runcorn north west of England, to discuss the outbreak of a rare strain of salmonella food poisoning which has affected at least 26 people in the area.

Shoppers have been warned not to eat any cooked turkey bought in the region recently without checking with their local environmental health department.

It is believed the probable source of the salmonella outbreak has been traced to a food processing company in Cheshire, England.

Making Down's children 'normal'

CHAPPAQUA, New York, Aug. 11. (AP) Plastic surgeons can cure Down's Syndrome, but they say a procedure known as craniofacial reconstruction may increase patients' self-esteem by giving them more "normal" facial features.

"We are trying to simply change those characteristics that make the children look like they have Down's," said Dr Kenneth Salyer of Dallas.

But he urges parents not to expect a change in their child's intelligence, and therein lies a controversy.

Some doctors and parents believe that when surgery is done on Down's individuals for mainly cosmetic reasons, society will expect too much from mentally retarded children made to look "normal."

But most plastic surgeons who treat Down's children believe improving their appearance lessens prejudice toward those born with it. They also say it helps ease society's low expectations of Down's children and helps them fit in more with the rest of the world.

Such surgery for Down's children began in the mid-1970s in Europe.

"So we're really just beginning to see studies about the effect. Not only the functional improvement for the children, but more importantly, their psychological and intellectual capabilities when they're older," said plastic surgeon Michael Salyer at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Centre in New York City.

Craniofacial surgery for Down's children easily recognizable. Their intellectual abilities are stunted. They develop stunted eyes, flattened nose bridges, protruding tongues, small, sometimes rotated ears that are proportionately low on their heads, generally chubby appearances and short, broad fingers.

Help

As recently as the 1970s, they were institutionalised by parents who felt nothing could be done and by parents who cope with the idea of a less-than-perfect child. But the 80s have brought research showing early intervention helps Down's children thrive outside institutions.

Christopher Marten, 20, underwent surgery five years ago to reduce the size of his tongue.

"We had no guarantee of the outcome, but we knew that the tongue would be so swollen it would be difficult for him to eat," said his mother, Karen, adding that Christopher was drinking milkshakes by the time he returned home from the hospital.

Down's Syndrome hasn't kept him from being a Boy Scout, swimmer, bowler, drummer, church acolyte or member of the Chappaqua drama group.

He also has collected a special Olympics athlete of the year award and holds a part-time job at a fast-food restaurant.

Blind robber arrested

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 11. (Reuter) Being blind didn't stop Richard Dunbar, 34, from trying to rob a bank.

He walked up to a Bank of America teller in a San Francisco branch yesterday and handed over a note reading: "This is a robbery. Put the 100, 50 and 20 in my hand."

A gun-toting policeman arrived and quickly forced Dunbar to the floor, grasping \$950 of the bank's money, and then another officer noticed Dunbar's white cane.

"I even had to ask somebody to lead me to the bank," Dunbar told the San Francisco Chronicle in a jailhouse interview published today.

"If I got away with the money, I would have had to ask somebody for directions once I got outside."

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Test-tube babies found to develop normally: study

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (AP) Test-tube babies are just as apt to be healthy and mentally alert as are infants conceived the old-fashioned way, according to researchers who compared matched groups of children.

Dr. James L. Mills, a researcher at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, said the study should assure parents that children born through in-vitro fertilisation — the so-called test-tube babies — will have no increased risk of abnormal development.

"The original question was, 'are these children going to be developmentally delayed; the answer to

that is very clear."

In a study published this month in the Journal of Paediatrics, researchers compared the development of 83 children born as a result of in-vitro fertilisation, or IVF, with 93 children born from normal conception. The children were matched by age, sex, race, age of the mother and by other factors. They were all between 12 and 30 months old.

All of the IVF children were conceived at the eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk, Virginia, and the other group were randomly selected from among children born with 100 miles (160

kilometres) of Norfolk.

The children in both groups were subjected to what Mills called "an extremely complete job of looking for malformations," or birth defects. The tests included a variety of imaging techniques, such as ultra-sound, that could detect physical abnormalities of internal organs.

Researchers also assessed the children individually using tests measuring mental development of the very young.

Mills said the findings showed there was no statistically important difference between the two groups.

INTERNATIONAL



Postal workers gather outside the Orange Glen post office early Thursday after the shootings. (Reuter wirephoto)



A postal worker comforts a friend early Thursday at the Orange Glen post office. (Reuter wirephoto)

Postal worker kills 3, shoots himself

ESCONDIDO, California, Aug 11, (UPI): A postal worker described as "happy-go-lucky" shot his wife to death in their bed yesterday, then drove to work and opened fire on fellow employees, killing two and wounding a third before shooting himself.

The rampage at the Orange Glen post office, 40 miles (65 km) north of San Diego, erupted at 7.30 am, sending some 20 postal workers scrambling for safety.

The gunman, John Martin Taylor, 52, was placed on life-support systems at Palomar Medical Centre with a bullet wound to his head and was declared brain-dead, a hospital spokesman said.

Taylor, a 27-year postal service veteran, drank coffee each morning with the two men he killed, identified as Ronald Williams, 56, and Richard Bernie, 38.

While he had no history of work problems, a fellow postman said Taylor recently discussed a 1986 shooting rampage by a disgruntled Oklahoma mail

carrier that left 15 dead and six wounded in a postal branch near Oklahoma City.

He also apparently had been arguing with his German-born wife, Elizabeth, 50, over her 22-year-old son, Danny, who lives with the couple.

"There was some increased paranoia recently because of some kind of trouble with their son, but it was nothing out of the ordinary," police chief Vincent Jimmo said.

"We don't have any rationale," Jimmo said. "It's real uncomfortable for us, because we don't have a reason for this shooting."

A postal worker who refused to give his name told the Los Angeles Times that Taylor left work early Wednesday night upset about the large volume of mail that had to be processed.

"He said he was going home early because 'there's not enough mail here,'" co-worker said, adding that Taylor's

Major US art forger caught

LOS ANGELES, Aug 11, (UPI): Major art forgers are rarely caught, but authorities say they have nabbed the nation's most prolific faker, a man who sold hundreds of phony Picassos, Miros and Salvador Dalis from Beverly Hills to Japan.

Investigators said Wednesday they have charged Anthony Tetro, 39, of Claremont, California, an upscale suburb of Los Angeles, with 44 counts of forgery and conspiracy to commit grant theft.

"All our indications are that Tetro created these works of art alone and that he was the single biggest forger in the United States," district attorney Ira Reiner told a news conference.

More than 250 forged paintings, watercolours and prints were confiscated in Beverly Hills, New York, Chicago, Boca Raton, Florida and Japan.

One of the confiscated works, a more than 8-foot forgery of a Dalí painting "Lincoln and Dali Vision," would have been worth more than 2 million if genuine.

Reiner displayed more than a dozen paintings and prints, along with tablets on which Tetro allegedly practised forging the signatures of famous artists.

Tetro was arrested July 31, but it was not announced until Wednesday. Free on \$10,000 bail, he was expected to surrender for arraignment today.

Independent art experts in Los Angeles and New York were amazed at the quality of the forgeries, ranging from the simple watercolours and oils of Hiro Yamaguchi and Norman Rockwell to the complicated colour schemes and designs of Dalí and Marc Chagall.

"If he indeed did all these himself, it's an extraordinary perversion of talent and his arrest is certainly welcome," said Connie Lowenthal, director of the New York-based American Foundation for Art Research, the nation's largest clearing house for recovering stolen art.

A second suspect, Mark Henry Sawicki, 31, of Los Angeles, has been charged with distributing the forgeries and faces 10 counts of grand theft and forgery.

Reiner said it was not known how much the forgeries may have netted, only that it was "substantial." He said Tetro drove a Rolls-Royce.

The investigation began in April, 1988, when Yamaguchi, a Japanese artist living in New York, saw several small watercolours in the Carol Lawrence Gallery in Beverly Hills that carried his signature but that he knew were forged. The works were selling for up to \$6,000.

A search for Tetro's home turned up the signature tablets and the large Dalí painting, Reiner said, but investigators have not located the studio at which the forgeries were done.

Most of the paintings were sold at smaller galleries dealing in prints and lesser works by great artists.

"This fits a pattern," Lowenthal said. "Forgers create works by major 20th century artists so they don't have to make them look too old, and then sell them in tourist areas that cater to people on vacation, which for all of us is a time when we carry our brains in our socks."

First time

Reiner and Lowenthal said distributors of faked artwork are sometimes caught, but it was one of the first times the actual forger had been arrested.

"It's very rare for authorities to ever catch the forger," Lowenthal said. "They usually work in very out of the way places and are never found."

The Los Angeles Times said there may be a link between Tetro and French publisher Pierre Marcard, accused of producing and selling 22,000 phony prints attributed to well-known artists such as Dalí.

Militant Jew surrenders

Charged in shooting

NEW YORK, Aug 11, (Agencies): The leader of a militant Jewish organisation has been charged with attempted murder after he shot at the chief of a rival group in downtown New York, injuring a bystander.

Mordechai Levy, 27, head of the Jewish Defence Organisation, surrendered to police nearly 2-1/2 hours after the shots were fired yesterday following a dispute about court papers that were served in a libel case.

Police recovered seven assault rifles from the apartment of Levy.

The weapons, which did not include the rifle used in the rooftop shooting, were found when police searched the tenement building.

Levy was charged with four counts of attempted murder, assault and criminal possession of a weapon, police said. Levy is accused of shooting at Lev Rubin, the head of the Jewish Defence League, private investigator Steve Rombom, a third man who had accompanied Rubin to serve Levy with legal papers, and Dominick Spinelli, who was shot in the knee.

Spinelli, 69, was listed in stable condition at St Vincent's hospital. He was sitting in a van near Levy's apartment when a shot came through the windshield and hit him in the knee at about 12.25 pm (1625 GMT).

Levy's apparent target was Rubin, leader of the Los Angeles-based JDL, who went with Rombom to Levy's home in the lower part of Manhattan to serve him with papers in a libel action Rubin had filed.

At issue were comments Levy made in an interview with a West Coast radio station. The two militant Jewish groups have been contentious for years, as Rubin and Levy battled over the leadership mantle of the Defence League's founder, Meir Kahane.

"Levy left the JDL about 7 or 8 years ago ... He formed his own

Coach kills self

Pitcher shot

LOOMIS, California, Aug 11, (AP): A Little League baseball coach described as obsessed with his 16-year-old star pitcher shot her after she leaped from his moving truck, then killed himself, official said Wednesday.

Coach Jesse Aguilar, 42, and Suzanne Jacobs, were traveling Tuesday on Interstate 80 when the teen-ager opened the door and jumped, Placer County Sheriff's Spokeswoman Patti Davis said.

Motorists who saw the incident stopped to help the girl, while Aguilar apparently also stopped, parking his truck a short distance away on the side of the roadway.

Aguilar then walked back to where the girl was being treated and shot her with a handgun once in the head before shooting himself, Davis said.

The teen-ager was in critical but stable condition Wednesday after surgeons at University Medical Centre removed the bullet. She was conscious.

At one point, in 1985, Jacobs was the only female player on an otherwise all-male team. She was also the subject of a local television feature for her play in the North Highlands Little League.

The girl's father, Roger Jacobs, said Aguilar had been her softball coach for six years and that he was obsessed with his daughter, but that there was no indication of a sexual relationship.

Sheriff's Detective Bill Summers said Aguilar was described as despondent over their relationship.

"We know that they were quite close, that they occasionally had their spats and mostly they were about baseball," he said. "If there were other things in there, I really don't know about it."

BILL COSBY will show his musical side in his next commercial, teaming with jazz singer Betty Carter in an upcoming 30-second Coke TV ad that Cosby conceived. They will appear in a nightclub setting with Cosby as a one-man jazz trio, playing drums, bass and piano while Grammy-winner Carter, who appeared last year on "The Cosby Show," sings. Cosby developed the concept for the commercial and also recruited Carter to renege the lyrics to her song "Movin' On" so that they fit the product. (UPI)

MONTGOMERY, Alabama: Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks briefly joined a group of Michigan students on their tour of historic civil rights sites in the south. Parks, 76, who now lives in Detroit, accompanied the group to a restaurant in Montgomery, Ala., the city where she made history in 1955 by refusing to give up her bus seat to a white man. Both black and white employees of the restaurant lined up to get Parks' autograph after they learned she was there. (UPI)



The Bee Gees perform Wednesday at New York's Radio City Music Hall during their current concert tour. From left are Maurice, Robin, and Barry Gibb. (Reuter wirephoto)

NEW YORK: Running New York City is not child's play, and sometimes it's Mayor Edward Koch with he was a youngster again. Koch, despite his famously brash style, revealed a yearning for the simpler life of a child Tuesday during a tour of a new Day-Care Centre at police headquarters in Lower Manhattan.

"It's marvelous," the mayor said as he was shown the playroom and a second room where the 35 children in the programme take a nap after lunch.

"Sometimes about 3 o'clock in the afternoon I feel like I want to come over and be loved," Koch told police Commissioner Benjamin Ward, who led the tour. (AP)

JACKSON, Wyoming: Old Faithful is losing steam, according to a Yellowstone National Park geologist who says the geyser may some day shut off.

The interval between eruptions has lengthened by about 14 minutes in recent years, said Rick Hitchcock. The geologist said an interview Tuesday with the Jackson Hole News newspaper in Wyoming that there was no way to predict when the geyser might stop erupting but that scientists can tell from its cone that Old Faithful has been dormant in the past. (AP)

LOS ANGELES: Author and US television personality Art Linkletter was reported in stable condition early Thursday after being hospitalized with chest pains.

The 77-year-old humorist was taken by ambulance to the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Centre on Wednesday night and was undergoing observation and tests, said nursing supervisor Susan Davidson.

"He is fully alert, talking and laughing," Ms Davidson said.

The cause of his chest pains was not immediately known, she said. (AP)

NICE, France: Pierre Matisse, an art dealer who devoted his career to promoting the works of such contemporary masters as Chagall, Miro, Ballois, Dubuffet and Giacometti, has died at age 79.

Matisse, son of the painter Henri Matisse, died Wednesday at the Prince Grace Hospital in Monaco, not far from his home in St-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, France, hospital officials said. The cause of death was not disclosed.

Patent recognised

Nurse spots robber

MADRID, Aug 11, (Reuter): A Spanish nurse recognised a patient in her hospital as the man who robbed her at knife-point only a few days earlier, police said yesterday.

The man, admitted to the emergency ward after a drug overdose, was arrested as soon as he recovered and charged with robbing the nurse as she withdrew money from a bank machine.

PONTIAC, Michigan: Female employees at the Oakland County Jail have gone to court, seeking construction of visual barriers for cells with glass walls so they don't have to watch male prisoners undress.

A request for an injunction filed Tuesday in Oakland County Circuit Court said the 10 women, who work in the booking area of the jail, are forcing to watch as inmates undress and often make obscene gestures at them. (UPI)

LAS VEGAS, Nevada: Magician David Copperfield can't make the musicians' picket lines at Caesars Palace disappear but he said he would cross them to perform Wednesday night at the Las Vegas resort singer Bill Medley one of the Righteous Brothers, cancelled his appearance on the same bill, however. Musicians went on strike at Caesars Aug 2, forcing cancellation of Dionne Warwick and Bart Bacharach show, because of a growing trend toward using tapes instead of live music. (UPI)

LARAMIE, Wyoming: Max Weinberg, the drummer with Bruce Springsteen's E Street Band, plans to tell college freshmen about how he found success working in a rock 'n' roll band.

Weinberg will be the featured speaker at the University of Wyoming's fourth annual president's welcome assembly for freshmen on Aug 28.

His speech, "Growing Up On E Street," will cover motivation, goal-setting, overcoming career obstacles and achieving success, university officials said. (AP)

HOUSTON: Actor Michael Douglas and Houston businessman Neil C. Morgan are planning to buy the 7,000-acre (2,800 ha) Wildcat Ranch in Colorado from a group headed by Commerce Secretary Robert Muesbach. The price tag is said to be about \$20 million and Morgan said there are plans to divide the ranch and build multimillion-dollar homes near the Snowmass ski resort. (UPI)

DETROIT: Singer Aretha Franklin is offering to put on a benefit concert to revive instrumental music programs in Detroit's elementary and middle schools. The singer and the city now have to settle on a date and a site for the show. (UPI)

REDWOOD CITY, California: Ralph Kumari painted footprints on the sidewalk outside his barber shop to guide the homeless to free haircuts. The path led him straight to jail.

Kumari was placed behind bars briefly Monday night before being released on his own recognizance because he did not have a permit for his sidewalk advertising. He was scheduled to be arraigned Sept 13 in municipal court. (UPI)

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INTERNATIONAL

Maggot treatment rare but effective: doctors

BALTIMORE, Aug. 11, (AP): The parents of a 17-year-old girl say the centuries-old practice of allowing the fly larvae to eat decaying human tissue may have saved their daughter's legs.

"My husband said, 'let's go for it,' and Shannon said 'let's go for it,' so we did and it worked," Patsy Dillingham, the patient's mother said.

Shannon Dillingham became critically ill May 10 and was taken from a clinic to children's hospital in Washington the next day.

Doctors there diagnosed her illness as meningococemia, a blood-borne bacterial infection that caused heart failure, kidney problems and diseased skin, and eventually led to the amputation of part of one leg and the toes on the other foot.

Dr. Alan Fields of the hospital staff said antibiotics used to kill the bacteria released a powerful toxin in Shannon's circulatory system that caused blood clots, reducing the flow of blood to her legs.

Meanwhile, the bacteria continued to attack her skin, rotting it from the inside out, said her father, Thomas Dillingham.

Once Shannon's doctors amputated her left leg below the knee and her toes on the right foot, they still were faced with cleaning the remaining skin so skin grafts could be done. Antibiotics didn't work fast enough, and paring the skin from her legs did not work well enough, her doctors said.

After a long search by the hospital

and the Dillinghams, more than 1,500 fly larvae were located in Ohio. On July 21, Shannon watched as the insects, so tiny she could barely see them, were released onto her legs and secured with tape.

"At first, they tickled when they put them in. My nurse and I were laughing," she said. "I could feel them moving everywhere."

After 36 hours, doctors used a high-pressure hose to wash them away. By then, the maggots had grown from less

than one-sixteenth inch (1.6 millimeter) in diameter to nearly as big around as the end of a little finger, her father said.

"It's a gruesome issue, but we know that it can work," said Dr. Thomas T. Provost, chairman of the department of dermatology at Johns Hopkins Hospital. "It's clinically well known that maggots will eat the dead tissue while leaving healthy tissue intact."

Provost said the treatment has been used in modern times in the United States only as a last resort because of

people's aversion to maggots.

But Dillingham, a former teacher of biology, physiology and anatomy, was familiar with the insects' cleaning capabilities and encouraged his daughter to try it.

"I just wanted to get out of the hospital," said Shannon, who is senior class president at her high school. "If the maggots meant I could get out sooner, then I wanted them to use them."

Shannon's doctors are optimistic she will walk again with prostheses.

Cajun girl held in awe

RICHARD, Louisiana, Aug. 11, (AP): Charlene Richard, 19, held 30 years ago today at the age of 12 from leukemia. Since her death, many believed she had helped perform miracles, and thousands now would like to have her canonized.

Worshippers were expected to begin arriving at her grave around midday for a Roman Catholic mass tonight at St. Edward Church, about 155 miles (249 kilometers) northwest of New Orleans.

The Rev. Joseph Brennan said 4,000 people were expected to attend the mass, representing a growing sentiment among southern Louisiana Roman Catholics to have a Cajun girl made a saint. Cajuns are Louisiana residents descended from immigrants from the former French colony of Acadia in what is now eastern Canada.

Paul Olivier will be among those attending.

"We had a child who was a year old and diagnosed as having cancer of the lymphatic system," said Olivier. "The doctors said it was very rare, but it was a killer. They put her life span at three, four, five months at the most," said Olivier, a retired state policeman. "Then someone told us about Charlene and we went to her grave and asked her to help us."

That was in 1970. Today, Angela Olivier is a 19-year-old student at the University of Southeastern Louisiana.

"I would say that is a sign of a miracle," Olivier said. "A miracle was answered."

There is a box beside Charlene's grave where those hoping for miracles can put their petitions. A light burns at night for those who make the pilgrimage after dark.

Despite the growing adulation she has received since her death, Charlene was not a remarkable child, said her mother, Mary Alice.

"She was full of life. She liked sports and was always playing with something. She went to church and said her prayers, but she was just a normal little girl," said Brennan.

Brennan said that, in his opinion, it was Charlene's death that made her a saint.

"Charlene taught the world not how to live, but how to die. Thirty years ago they didn't have the pain medicine they have now and she died in excruciating pain, but in perfect grace. She became great at that time," he said.

The "miracles" began soon after Charlene's death, said the Rev. Floyd Calais.

Calais, 62, was the chaplain at a state hospital in Lafayette at the time, in the heart of Louisiana's Cajun country, when he prayed to Charlene, asking her to inspire the bishop to assign him to a parish.

Calais was soon appointed pastor of the church where the girl was buried.

"When I found out which church I had, the hair on the back of my neck stood on end," he said.

WHO reports on malaria

GENEVA, Aug. 11, (KUNA): The global malaria situation has shown little improvement, with cases still occurring in about 100 countries, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported today.

Over the last three years, the number of malaria cases reported has remained stationary at around five million — excluding the African region — according to the WHO report.

However, the report estimates the global incidence of clinical malaria at some 103 million cases annually, and the prevalence of infection to be of the order of 264 million parasite carriers.

While the level of mortality due to malaria was unknown in most endemic areas, a study in Gambia in 1987 indicated that about 25 per cent of childhood mortality may be attributable to malaria, the report noted.

In 1987, the total number of reported cases of malaria were 64 in Algeria, 33 in Egypt, 75 in Libya and 1,287 in Morocco. A noticeable increase had been observed in the case of Afghanistan — by more than 30,000 to a level of 428,128 in 1987.

In fact, there has been a regular rise in the incidence of malaria in Afghanistan during the last three years. Malaria cases per thousand population went up from 21.9 in 1985 to 35.5 in 1986 and then to 50.8 in 1987.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Wife lover shot: A man who learned at work that his wife was cheating on him went home and shot dead the woman and her lover as they lay in bed watching a pornographic videotape, police said yesterday.

The wife, Bunda Chay, 25, died at Hollywood Presbyterian Hospital of a gunshot wound to her chest, detective Sam Jacobellis said.

Her lover, Thomas Young, 33, was shot twice in the chest. He died at Good Samaritan Hospital following the 9 pm Wednesday shooting.

Police booked Sea Thach, 27, a Cambodian native, on suspicion of murder after he called officers to his home in Elysian Park, where the victims were found, Jacobellis said. (UPI)

Balloon flight: As Britain and the Soviet Union work toward a joint space venture, two veteran daredevils plan to link the two countries the old-fashioned way — by balloon.

Don Cameron, 50, a record-breaking balloon pilot, said Wednesday that he will team up with Lt. Gen. Gherman Titov for the 1,400-mile (2,240-kilometre), daredevil trip from Bristol in southwest England, across the North Sea, Denmark, southern Sweden and the Baltic Sea to Leningrad.

Titov, 53, was the back-up man for Yuri Gagarin, the first man in space on April 12, 1961, and Titov became the world's first multiple-orbit astronaut by circling the Earth 17 times in the spaceship Vostok II on Aug. 6-7, 1961. (AP)

Trainee tattooist: Fiona Long, 22, has just become Britain's first government-sponsored trainee tattooist and her tutor Tiger Sid is predicting a bright future for her in the male-dominated trade.

"She is at a disadvantage being a woman because this can be a rough business, but she's a natural artist and I'm sure she'll manage," he said.

Long won funding from the government's employment training scheme to learn the craft at Tiger Sid's tattoo studio at workshop, in the English Midlands. (Reuters)

Car thief thanked: Tammy Rogers has a message for the car thief who swiped her 1972 junker last fall: "Thanks for all the hard work."

When her Mazda RX2 was stolen last November from a Portland Street, Rogers, 27, figured she would never see it again. She paid \$200 for it just a week earlier but wasn't all that upset because it was hardly a classy roadster.

"The body was mostly rust, with some primer and a little red paint," she said. "The inside was gross and ripped."

What's more, the driver's seat was propped up by two concrete blocks and she could see the street through the floorboards.

But police had two surprises for Rogers this week. Not only was her car found, but the relic had been given a new lease on life by its interim "owner." (UPI)

African stowaways: Two African stowaways who were locked in shackles in a ship latrine for six weeks obtained their official release yesterday and headed on their way back to Tanzania, immigration officials said.

The two youths, aged 17 and 19, were scheduled to board a British Airways flight last night at Houston's Intercontinental airport to return to Africa, said Royce McGill, supervisor of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service in Galveston, Texas.

The youths were taken off a Lykes Lines Ship in Lake Charles yesterday afternoon where they had been detained for six weeks since they were discovered as stowaways.

"I think it's the best thing that could have happened," McGill said of their release. "I wish we could have done it sooner."

The youths were in "good shape" yesterday and ready for their return trip, McGill said. (UPI)

Woman sentenced

A Vietnam war protester who lived under an assumed identity for 20 years was sentenced yesterday for crimes committed in 1969.

Linda Quint, 42, was sentenced to perform 10,000 hours of community service and pay a \$20,000 fine for burning draft board records from a Chicago office. She also received three years' probation.

Friends and co-workers at an insurance company in Bakersfield, California, where Quint was earning \$60,000 a year said they had no idea Quint was a woman on the run from a 1970 conviction and a 10-year prison sentence.

She had been living as a fugitive in California since 1974 under the assumed name Emily Freeman. (UPI)

Handbag snatcher: Quimba the elephant is damaging her health by snatching handbags from visitors to a Dutch zoo with her trunk and swallowing them whole.

"It's not good for her health and people who lose their belongings aren't about, whose use in the test was approved earlier this year by the Environmental Protection Agency, is designed to be sprayed on crops and kill insect pests, but unlike common chemical pesticides it dissipates relatively quickly with no further effect on the environment."

The test was designed to measure the survival time of the disabled virus under natural conditions, said H Alan Wood, a virologist with the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research. (UPI)

Einstein letter: Setting a price on a historical letter can be a relative thing, particularly when the writer was Albert Einstein.

Howard Whetsel said Wednesday he is satisfied with the \$4,000 he was paid by a California broker for a 1947 letter he received from Einstein, the scientist who formulated the theory of relativity.

"I probably could have gotten more, but the letter was getting fragile," said Whetsel, 78, a retired chemist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee.

Whetsel met Einstein at Princeton University while working on the Manhattan Project, a wartime effort to design and build the first US nuclear weapons. (AP)

First-ever test: The first-ever test of a genetically altered virus that could replace some pesticides was conducted Wednesday at Cornell University's agricultural experiment station.

The virus, whose use in the test was approved earlier this year by the Environmental Protection Agency, is designed to be sprayed on crops and kill insect pests, but unlike common chemical pesticides it dissipates relatively quickly with no further effect on the environment."

The test was designed to measure the survival time of the disabled virus under natural conditions, said H Alan Wood, a virologist with the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research. (UPI)

Prostitutes petition: A section of prostitutes in Geneva has urged the government for tighter measures for protection against AIDS, a Swiss daily reported yesterday.

According to La Suisse, the prostitutes have called for "free and compulsory monthly medical examination" to detect AIDS to protect themselves and their clients from their colleagues who may have AIDS.

"We would like the public authorities to be aware of the legitimate worries of a profession which is necessary to the community," the petition by the prostitutes said. (KUNA)

Sled trouble: Explorers crossing Antarctica with dog sleds spent the past two days trying to salvage two of their three sleds, which were damaged when they crashed in a descent on ice, a spokeswoman said Wednesday night.

The international team led by US adventurer Will Steger tore down both damaged sleds and rebuilt them into one full-sized sled and a half-sized sled, said expedition spokeswoman Cathy Demoll.

"We were careening down some steep blue ice. The two Komatiks Homestead sleds crashed together and rolled, splitting the runners lengthwise," Steger said in a facsimile telephone message received Wednesday at the expedition's headquarters in St. Paul. (AP)

Infant death capital of US

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11, (AP): Each day, Sidney Jones wages a frustrating and sometimes futile battle to save the innocent victims of drug abuse and poor prenatal care.

"When you lose a child there's a feeling of defeat," says Jones, who as head of obstetrics at D.C. General Hospital is confronted by Washington's infant mortality rate, the worst in the nation. "You've had every hope of saving this person and you suddenly feel hopeless."

In the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, eight babies lie fighting for their lives. One is just 15 days old.

He tests positive for the AIDS virus and has syphilis. His body is not producing red blood cells properly, causing his stomach to bloat.

White swatches of cloth are bound around his tiny ankles, holding down his legs to keep him from hurting himself. He suffers from what doctors here call "trembliness." Adult drug addicts call it the shakes. At just two weeks of age, this unnamed baby is going through withdrawal.

His mother is a cocaine addict. Her name and whereabouts are unknown. Hospital officials do not expect her to return to claim the child.

To varying degrees, this picture is repeated at urban hospitals across the country, hampering efforts to reduce a national infant mortality rate that already lags behind Japan and most of Europe. Each year, about 40,000 American babies die before their first birthday, for a national rate last year of 9.9 deaths per 1,000 births.

Washington's rate of 23.2 per 1,000 births was more than double the already distressing national figure, substantially above the world average for developed nations of about 17, and far worse than rates for Western Europe and Japan.

In Britain, for example, the rate is 9.1 per 1,000 births; in West Germany, 6.3; in France, 7.6; in Sweden, 5.7 and in Japan, 4.9.

Washington's large black population is afflicted in particular with high infant mortality. The National Center for Health Statistics says black infants nationwide are nearly four times more likely to die as a result of prematurity and low birthweight.

Many of these babies suffer from seizures due to brain damage, cerebral hemorrhage, increased heart rate and stunted organ growth.

Most of the 244 infants who died in the District of Columbia last year were born to drug-addicted mothers, many of whom sought no prenatal health care at all, says Reed Tuckson, the city's health commissioner. Under such circumstances, officials say, there is frequently little that doctors such as Jordan can do.

"The reality is as tragic as we predicted," Tuckson says.

Prenatal care in Washington costs an estimated \$400 per mother, but the lifetime costs of caring for low birthweight infants can easily run into the tens of thousands of dollars, Tuckson says.

"If you went to Chicago or to Boston, you would see the same phenomenon," says Gordon Avery, chairman of the neonatology department at D.C. General. "Other cities say between 10 and 15 per cent of babies there are born to drug addicted mothers."

Avery says one pregnant woman he encountered went into labor prematurely while snorting or smoking cocaine, which can cause the uterus to contract and cut off oxygen to the baby.

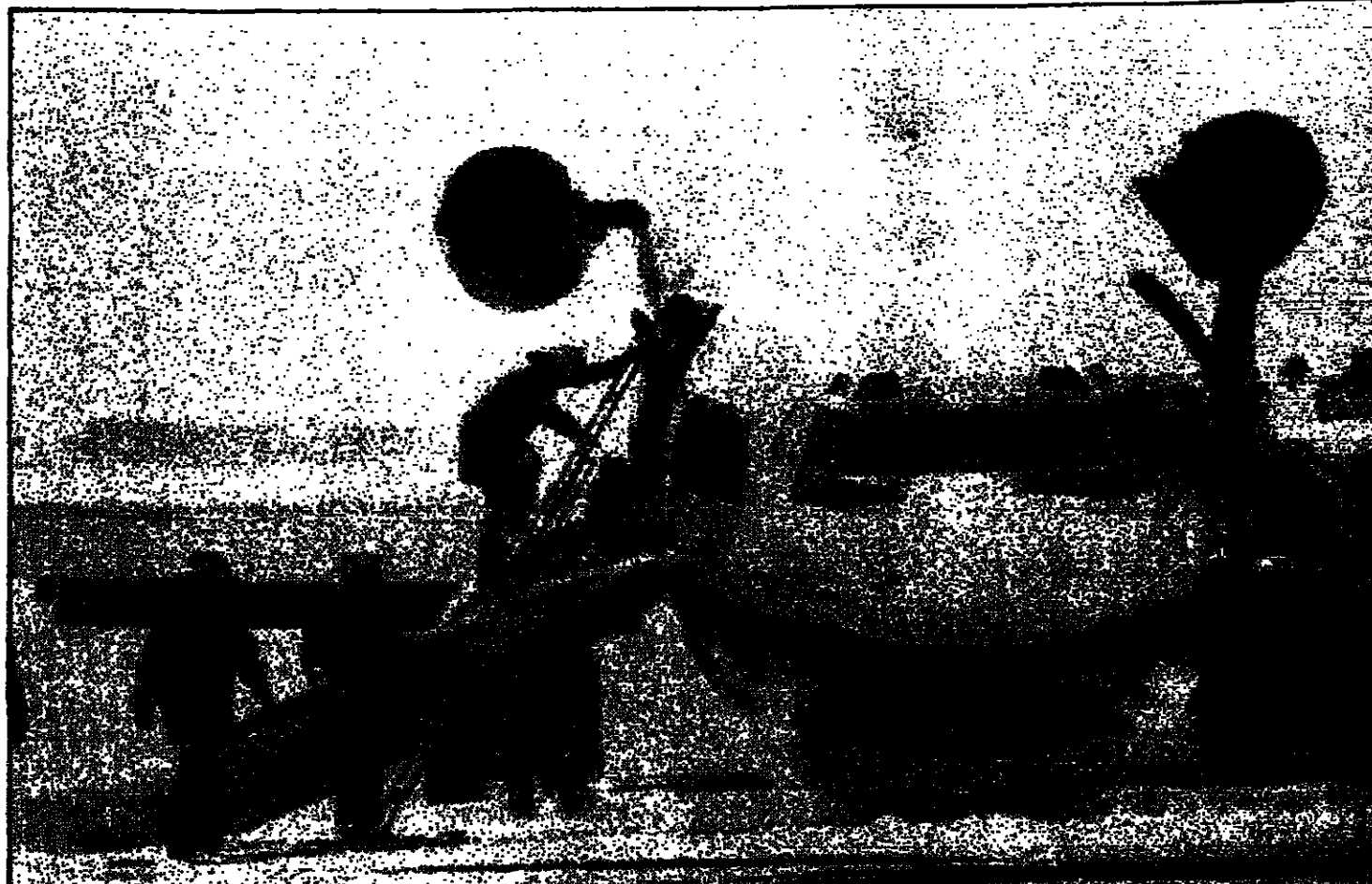
get as far away from city lights as possible, he cautioned.

The Perseids shower, most visible after midnight each Aug. 12, is made up of the remnants of a trail of dust left by the swift-tuttle comet, last sighted in 1862.

Each year the earth's orbit takes it through the comet's old trail, Horkheimer said.

"Meteors are comet litter," Horkheimer said. "It's like driving behind a garbage truck on a bumpy road — the debris slams into your windshield."

Because of the Earth's rotation, the best time for comet viewers is after midnight, when the planet turns directly into the path of debris, he said.



Skids to a halt

A Trump Shuttle jet carrying 56 people skidded to a halt with a spray of sparks and smoke yesterday in an emergency landing at Boston's Logan Airport after its nose wheel failed to extend. No injuries were reported.

Fire equipment circled the plane and sprayed it with foam after the Boeing 727 from New York's LaGuardia Airport ground to a halt. Passengers slid down emergency chutes and walked to a waiting bus for a ride to the terminal.

"When they first said they had problems, everybody was just kind of joking about it," said a passenger, Charlie Cormay of Sudbury, Massachusetts. "Once we realized

there was going to be crash landing, everybody got pretty solemn."

As the plane came in for a landing, Cormay said, "a few prayers" went through his mind. "I looked out the window and saw all the emergency vehicles. That's when I realized it was actually pretty serious."

Before the landing, the plane circled nearly an hour, dumping fuel. The pilot also tried to shake the wheel loose from its housing by dropping the plane onto a runway, but the attempt failed and the jet took to the air again.

"They made one sweep but it didn't shake loose," said Greg Sullivan, 19, who watched

the attempt.

The plane circled several more times before smoothly dropping its wing wheels to the runway in a gentle, but ungainly, landing, its nose scraping the pavement.

Passengers were told to put their heads in their laps as the jet came in.

The jet carried 49 passengers and seven crew members, said Dee Clark, a spokeswoman for the Massachusetts Port Authority, which operates Logan.

Picture above shows firemen inspecting the airliner. Below the airliner rests on the runway at Logan Airport. (Reuters wire-photo)

Probe into DC-10 mishap

DENVER, Aug. 11, (UPI):

Federal investigators arrived yesterday to determine what caused the tail engine of a Northwest Airlines DC-10 to break apart in flight on Wednesday, but officials refused to compare the accident to the crash of a United Airlines jet in Iowa last month that killed 111 people.

"This is a separate event," said Joseph Hall, a spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board. "We're looking at this incident on its own merit."

Northwest flight 308, en route from Los Angeles to Minneapolis, made an emergency landing at Stapleton International Airport in Denver about 6:30 pm Wednesday. None of the 266 passengers or 11 crew members was injured.

Nall said at a news conference that a visual inspection of the plane revealed several "small" holes in the cowling of the No. 2 (tail) engine.

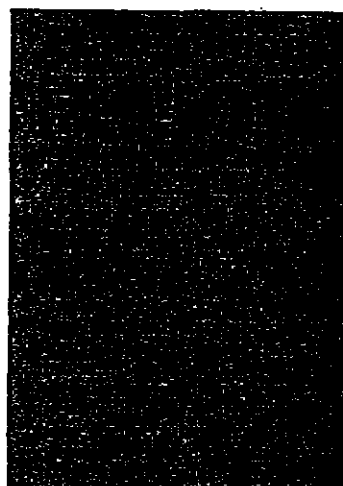
"That initial look at the aircraft shows relatively minor external damage," Nall said.

He described the accident as "uncontained engine failure," meaning pieces of the engine left the interior portion of the turbine and burst through the cowling.

Nall also said the engine's tail cone fell off and had not been recovered.

The No. 2 engine on a United Airlines DC-10 exploded last month, causing a crash landing in Sioux City, Iowa, that killed 111 people. That aircraft lost all its hydraulic power.

Nall said after federal investigators finished with their



examination in Denver, the airline would ferry the plane to Minneapolis for further inspection.

There were conflicting reports about the size of the holes in the tail section.

"There are shrapnel-like holes in the engine and the (exhaust) tail cone is missing," Stapleton international airport spokesman Richard Boulware said after the jet had landed. "I could stick my arms through to the engine."

Northwest flight 308 was en route to Minneapolis when a "heavy vibration" rocked the plane, NTSB spokesman Greg Feith said. The pilots shut down the No. 2 engine and the plane landed safely at Stapleton 30 minutes later.

The Denver incident brought a renewed cry for an investigation of DC-10s.

The head of the US Federal

Air New Zealand acts Battle of the bulge

AUCKLAND, Aug. 11, (Reuters): Air New Zealand's flight attendants are fighting the battle of the bulge over an order to keep in shape or be punished.

The recently privatized airline wrote to its employees: "We... require you to maintain the weight at which you were employed, with some allowance for age. Failure to meet the standards will result in disciplinary action being taken."

"They have used the tact of an Indian bull elephant," said Clem Durning, assistant secretary of the Airline Stewards and Hostesses Union.

"If they're misguided enough to think they can enforce those threats of disciplinary action they're in for a rude awakening," he said.

During claimed he had already been contacted by a salesman offering bulk supplies of weight-reducing pills.

Aviation Administration (FAA) said yesterday that despite a second incident of a DC-10 engine breaking up in flight, the McDonnell Douglas wide-body plane remained safe to fly.

FAA administrator James Busey said the fact the pilot on the Northwest Airlines flight from Los Angeles to Minneapolis shut down the tail engine and made a safe emergency landing in Denver on the remaining two engines on Wednesday night showed the system worked.

Busey told a news conference that the Northwest plane's engines were built by Pratt and Whitney, unlike the one on the United Airlines plane that disintegrated on a Denver to Chicago flight on July 19.

The United engine was made by General Electric.

Following the incident, the

FAA announced a joint government-industry study into the ability of wide-body planes to survive after such catastrophic incidents.

It said the study would later extend to other planes with similar hydraulic systems that terminate in the tail section.

Busey said there was no reason to ground the DC-10 as a precautionary measure. He said of the plane "it's safe."

An Air Force cargo plane crashed Wednesday while attempting to drop equipment during a training exercise at Fort Bragg, killing one crew member and injuring six others, authorities said.

Seven people were aboard the C-130 Hercules from the 463 tactical airlift wing based at Dyess Air Force Base near Abilene, Texas. The aircraft crashed at a drop zone on the Army base.

Perseids meteor shower to arrive

MIAMI, Aug. 11, (AP): Earth will be treated to one of the biggest cosmic shows of the year today when the Perseids meteor shower arrives, and late-night watchers should be able to spot about one shooting star a minute.

"The Perseids meteor shower traditionally is the biggest of the year," Jack Horkheimer, head of Miami, Florida's Space Transit Planetarium, said yesterday.

But he warned star-gazers not to expect a fireworks display.

"Even at their best, they're meteor sprinkles," he said.

"Try to spot one extremely bright meteor during the night, then call it quits."

Viewers will have cross their fingers for a clear sky and

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INTERNATIONAL

First black nominated as chairman of JCS

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (AP): President George Bush yesterday named former White House National Security Adviser Colin L. Powell as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, making him the youngest man and the first black selected as the United States' top military officer.

With the 52-year-old four-star Army general at his side, Bush said: "As we face the challenges of the 90s it is most important that the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff be a person of breadth, judgment, experience and total integrity. Colin Powell has all those qualities and more."

Bush heaped praise on the nominees during a Rose Garden ceremony, saying, "Colin Powell has made a truly distinguished military career and he's a complete soldier."

Powell told the President, "I am ready to go to it and I look forward to the challenges ahead."

Following confirmation by the Senate, Powell would take over the prestigious position from Adm William J. Crowe Jr who is due to retire Sept 30. Powell currently heads the forces command at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Congress reacted warmly to the appointment.

In a statement anticipating the announcement, Sen Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, called Powell "an excellent nominee" and said his panel would hold confirmation proceedings soon after Congress returns from recess in September.

In the post of chairman, Powell will act as the principal military adviser to the President and the secretary of defence.

During the most recent hostage crisis, Crowe was a frequent visitor to the White House, offering his assessment of the military options available to Bush.

Under a new management reform programme instituted by Defence Secretary Dick Cheney, the chairman wields greater

influence over the Defence Department's budget and is able to advise the secretary of defence on "the full range of issues" that were before him.

The chairman also is allowed to offer his own opinion to the President and the defence secretary, eschewing past practice of only passing on the opinion of the joint chiefs, who are in charge of the various military branches.

Powell distinguished himself in the highly visible White House roles of national security adviser and deputy national security adviser as vice president.

Powell was the first black to be named chief of the NSC when then-president Ronald Reagan tapped him for the post in November 1987.

He rose to the White House post after working with his predecessor, Frank Carlucci, to reform the scandal-ravaged office in the days after the Iran-Contra affair.



Bush and Powell laugh during a ceremony at the White House where Bush nominated Powell to be the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. (Reuters wirephoto).

Menem waves

Argentine President Carlos Menem, sporting a jumpsuit and helmet, yesterday piloted an Argentine-built combat and training jet on his country's Air Force Day.

Menem flew the IA-63 Pampa jet for 40 minutes with the assistance of an instructor.

Picture shows Menem waving from the cockpit. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shaping drug policy

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (Agencies): A White House cabinet-level panel met yesterday to weigh components of the drug strategy plan proposed by national drug policy Director William Bennett, but no final decisions have been made, spokesmen said.

"White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater earlier declined to comment on one draft of the proposal, obtained by the Los Angeles Times, that would funnel hundreds of millions of dollars to cocaine-producing nations and drug-ridden inner cities, but not increase efforts to intercept illegal drug shipments into the United States."

"Obviously we have a draft," Fitzwater said. "We have a draft, and there are many other ideas that are being discussed and they are all subject to change," Fitzwater said.

He also indicated that various draft proposals were being floated by the administration in an effort to get reaction before the final strategy is made public Sept 5.

"I would say that a lot of these ideas are probably being discussed in forums where we would get good feedback," he said.

And noting that the president's domestic policy adviser, George Shultz, was reviewing the various options, he added, "I suspect there will be changes."

Another spokesman said later that President Bush and Bennett have been consulting regularly on the strategy but that final recommendations by the domestic policy council had not been passed on to the President.

The council met for a second time yesterday to discuss drug options, the spokesman said, and will present proposals to Bush in a formal session next Tuesday.

The \$6.1 billion plan reported by the Los Angeles Times was intended to cut production and use of drugs, and if adopted, would represent a change from Reagan administration policies to prevent the drugs from entering the US.

It would more than triple military and economic assistance to Peru, Bolivia and Colombia, whose economies have become dependent on the drug trade, and send American advisers and troops to help the countries halt the drug trade there.

According to the draft, the programme would more than double federal money for state and local law enforcement and increase by 30 per cent federal spending on drug treatment programmes. The plan also endorses Bush's \$600 million proposal to increase the number of federal jail cells by 85 per cent.

If approved by the President and Congress, the plan would add \$2 billion to the federal government's current anti-drug spending.

The drug connection involved in the "pizza connection" had managed to infiltrate the Zurich police, Swiss newspapers reported Wednesday.

The pizza connection is described as a huge network of drug traffickers operating between Sicily and the US and having links through Switzerland.

A key figure in the drug ring is Yasar Musululu, apparently wanted by Interpol. It is now learnt that Musululu, who operated from Zurich, managed to get his accomplice — Cemal Cemaligil — a job with the department of justice and police as an interpreter.

The Panamanian subsidiary of Colombia's Banco de Occidente will plead guilty to laundering drug money in the biggest such conviction obtained by the US government, the New York Times has reported.

The US Customs Service has confiscated some \$14 million worth of drug paraphernalia in the past 16 months, but the agency still isn't clear on what items fall into that category, an official said yesterday.



Suspended pilot

Rod Ellis the lead pilot of the Ray Ban Gold Aerobatic Team, is suspended upside down over Boundary Bay while flying part of their routine for the Abbotsford International Airshow. The airshow is North America's largest and includes the North American debut of the Soviet MiG-29. (Reuters wirephoto)

Global sales of MiG-29 sought

ABBOTSFORD, British Columbia, Aug 11, (Reuters): Soviet officials attending a Canadian air show said yesterday they want to sell a stripped-down version of the MiG-29 jet fighter to any country that will pay the \$20 million price — including the United States and its NATO allies.

"There are very many people who ask us this question, whether we will sell the aircraft to Canada or the United States. We say yes," MiG designer Anatoly Belosvet told Reuters.

So far, Belosvet said, the Soviets have sold the jet, which can fly at more than twice the speed of sound, to Iraq, Syria, Yugoslavia and India.

Belosvet, a member of the 108-person Soviet delegation at the Abbotsford International Air and Trade Show, said a US arms dealer had shown interest in buying the plane for possible resale to a third country or countries.

"We had talks in Moscow. But we have not decided on anything," Belosvet said.

US naval exercise

Cuba to get UN seat

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (UPI): US Marines and soldiers backed by jets and helicopters conducted an amphibious landing exercise yesterday on an island next to the one where Panama strongman Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega lives, officials said.

Spokesmen at the Defence Department and the US Southern Command in Panama said the military exercise was not in response to incidents between US and Panamanian forces the past two days.

But they also refused to say how long "Operation Alice" had been planned or how many troops were involved, citing unspecified "security reasons" for their unusual decision not to make such information public.

At about 1400 GMT, the joint-service military exercise involving Marines, Army troops and Air Force jet fighters began in an area involving a string of four islands parallel to the Pacific Ocean entrance to the Panama Canal.

The islands are south of Fort Amador, a joint US-Panamanian military installation near Panama City, and are connected by a man-made causeway.

Mercedes Morris, spokeswoman for the US Southern Command in Panama, said the Marines and Army troops conducted an amphibious landing on Perico Island while supported by jet fighters and Navy patrol boats. Also, Army troops in armoured personnel carriers moved down the causeway from the other direction.

Less than a quarter-mile (400 m) away from Perico Island, on

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 11, (Reuters): Cuba will join the security council next January 1 for the first time since the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power, UN diplomats said yesterday.

Together with Romania, South Yemen, Ivory Coast and Zaïre, Cuba will serve a two-year term on the 15-nation body responsible for international peace and security.

Each of the five countries has been nominated by its regional group to succeed Brazil, Yugoslavia, Nepal, Senegal and Algeria.

The unopposed nominees are virtually certain to be elected when the General Assembly chooses new council members, probably in late October.

The five new members will join Malaysia, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia and Finland, whose two-year terms expire at the end of 1990. The council's five permanent members, with veto powers, are the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, China and France.

Cuba has served two previous terms on the council — in 1949-50 and in 1956-57 — but has not been a member since Castro came to power more than 30 years ago.

Culebra Island, Noriega has a house, a bunker and the headquarters of his special anti-terrorist squad that also acts as his bodyguards.

Defence officials said they did not know if Noriega was home at the time, but that a Panama Defence Forces helicopter with a general's four stars on it — Noriega is the only general in Panama — flew over the exercises.

The Marine landing would have been visible to Noriega from his house, another official said.

An opposition leader in Panama City criticised the manoeuvres, saying they gave Noriega an excuse to stay in power through a "false cause for nationalism."

"These actions give the regime an excuse to show the world a false cause for nationalism," said

Soviets, US to examine records

MOSCOW, Aug 11, (Reuters): US and Soviet officials are to have the right to examine records of each other's prisoners who they suspect have been convicted on political charges, a senior Western diplomat said today.

An agreement between the two countries to this effect is due to come into force in the next few weeks, he said.

But he stressed the final decision on the fate of prisoners would necessarily be taken by courts in their countries.

Soviet officials, including Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, have said there are no more political prisoners in the country's camps and prisons.

However, two US congressmen who toured a POW labour camp 35 in the Urals and interviewed prisoners, said yesterday they were convinced that some of 38 inmates there had been held purely for their political beliefs.

Richard Stephenson, a US State Department official who accompanied the two congressmen, said Washington believes there are still some 100 political prisoners in the Soviet Union. Western diplomats say such estimates are necessarily rough.

Congressmen Frank Wolf and Christopher Smith, who visited the Perm 35 labour camp and interviewed 24 prisoners, said they could not specify how many were being held for their political beliefs.

But Wolf said "many or most said they were political prisoners" and "we believe that they are".

The congressmen also criticised the prison camp's conditions, saying inmates complained of the cold and isolation, and were allowed few visits from relatives. Perm 35 is known for housing and mistreating Soviet dissidents, including well-known human rights activist Natalya Sharansky, who now lives in Israel.

Prison officers at Moscow's Butyrka jail used rubber batons and fire hoses to quell a riot, and one officer and one prisoner were injured, the daily Moskovskaya Pravda reported yesterday.

The trouble started after a prison officer turned on a siren to stop prisoners talking to each other through their cell windows. Inmates then began banging the bars with tin plates and the unrest spread through the jail.



Woman commander

Kristian Baker, 21, was named the US Military Academy's first woman brigade commander on Wednesday since the academy began accepting female cadets 13 years ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

I was in Paris May 14: Bloch

Enjoying the exposure

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (AP): Felix Bloch, the US diplomat suspected of spying for Moscow, says he was in Paris on May 14, the day he purportedly met a Soviet agent in a restaurant there and left a briefcase for him, according to an Austrian broadcast interview today.

Bloch made the comments during an on-camera interview Thursday with the Washington correspondent of Austrian Television. The interview, conducted in German, was broadcast today.

Bloch acknowledged in the interview that he had gone to a Paris restaurant on May 14. But he declined to say whether he had dined there with the suspected Soviet agent or whether he left a briefcase there.

Bloch also declined to comment when asked whether the allegations that he spied for the Soviets were true.

"I will not, as a matter of principle, say anything on this question for the most varied reasons," Bloch said, according to a broadcast of the interview. "I will only say this now: the matter is very complicated. As much as I would like to say something like that, I will not say anything on this topic at this point of time. Maybe at a later point of time."

The interview was the first time Bloch has responded to journalists' questions touching on the allegations against him. The Austrian correspondent summarized the interview for the Associated Press in Washington and the broadcast was monitored later in Vienna.

The Austrian-born Bloch, 54, was suspended from his State Department job on June 22, but no charges have been brought against him. He has been under close FBI surveillance as the investigation against him continues.

Bloch was posted at the US embassy in Vienna from 1980 to 1987, and for four of those years served as the deputy chief of mission.

When Bloch was asked by the Austrian Radio whether he had been in Paris on May 14, he replied: "Was I in Paris on May 14? Yes."

When asked if he met with the purported Soviet agent, Bloch replied: "This I cannot tell you. I cannot answer this question now."

US government sources in Washington have said suspicions about Bloch arose when the United States intercepted a telephone call on May 14 to the diplomat in Washington from a man under surveillance in Paris who called himself Pierre. The two men set up a meeting in Paris, and the US asked French intelligence to monitor it, the sources said.

ABC news reported last week that on May 14 Bloch arrived in Paris from New York and met his contact for dinner. The US television network said Bloch left his briefcase under the table to be picked up by the suspected Soviet agent.

"Have you missed your briefcase since?" Bloch was asked by Wiesner.

"No," he replied.

Austrian police authorities said they were told by the US that the suspected Soviet contact posed as a Finnish computer salesman, ABC said he travelled with a Finnish passport under the name of Reino Gikman.

US sources have said that Bloch contends he only knew the man as a stamp collector.

Bloch is paying back the news media for all the attention lavished on him. His Finnish method: exercise and overexposure.

On Wednesday, he sat on a park bench for two hours enjoying the cool, bright day as much as anyone can with microphones brushing his lips and lenses trained on his face.

Bloch cannot summarily lose his job or pension with the case in its current unresolved state, an officer of the American Foreign Service Association said yesterday.

■ Espionage for communist countries accounted for nearly three quarters of the 91 cases uncovered by Swiss authorities in 1980-88, a government report said Wednesday.

YAKIMA, Washington, Aug 11, (AP): Soviet builders are raising roof beams of new homes for poor farmworkers to thank US construction crews who helped rebuild Soviet Armenia after a devastating earthquake.

Perestroika, a Russian term linked to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and referring to the economic and social restructuring of a society to make it run more efficiently, has led to a sort of US-Soviet peace corps.

"Nothing like this was possible three years ago," said Farit Mukhametshin, 42, of Moscow, an official of the Soviet Peace Fund and student at the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"My hope is if the operation is continued the social life of both countries is improved and there can be feedback," he said.

The project began this week in the Yakima valley, a rich farming region of central Washington where migrant farmers arrive each summer to pick cherries, apples and other fruit.

While the land is rich, even farmworkers who live in the valley year-round often are forced to live in substandard housing.

So 10 Soviets and 10 Americans, working as the US-Soviet partners project, will spend the next month building four homes and a day care centre.

Farmworkers Martin and Esperanza Chavarin, and their seven children, will get a new house. So will Ramon and Esther Jiron and their four children. The other two houses will go to people with handicaps.

The southeast Yakima community centre will get a new day care centre for 50 children, nearly all from poor families.

John Everhart, interim director of the centre, said the day care centre will cost only \$14,000 for materials; with hired labour it would have cost \$50,000.

The team came together in July, when the 10 Americans travelled to Armenia to perform earthquake reconstruction. Since then, the Americans and Soviets have formed a camaraderie, including the wearing of jackets printed with a world map.

While project leaders like to discuss their work as raising walls to bring down barriers between the two nations, some involved have more basic goals.

"I love to help poor people everywhere," said Margarita Gopshin, 45, head of foreign languages at the pedagogical institute in Tashkent.

■ In addition to four million homeless, there are up to 14 million people in the United States living on the brink of homelessness, warns a study.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Takes a plunge

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 11, (Reuters): Karate enthusiast Delhi Jacobs was badly injured when he fell seven storeys while practicing martial arts moves on top of a Pretoria building.

Jacobs, known as "The White Ninja," partly broke his fall by grasping at the roof of an adjoining building. The Citizen newspaper said he was in serious condition in hospital after the Wednesday plunge.

Arrest warrants

BOLZANO, Italy, Aug 11, (AP): A judge yesterday issued six arrest warrants for two Austrians and four Italians in connection with terrorist attacks in Italy's Alpine region of Alto Adige.

The attacks stretched over three years, from 1986-1988, and included a dynamite explosion outside a hotel in Merano where Giulio Andreotti, then foreign minister and now premier, was staying for a holiday.

No one was injured in the hotel attack.

Selection test

LONDON, Aug 11, (KUNA): The British Royal Air Force's first women pilots will reach for the skies at a tough selection test in Kent, southern England, this Monday.

The 11 young hopefuls will be the first to take advantage of the RAF's recent announcement that women are now eligible to fly as pilots and navigators on non-combat aircraft.

They will undergo several hours of tests to ensure their mental and physical suitability for aircrew training.

Lesbian soldier

CHICAGO, Aug 11, (AP): A federal appeals court has barred an army reserve sergeant from re-enlisting because she is a lesbian.

The 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court decision allowing Miriam Ben-Shalom, of Milwaukee, to rejoin the army reserve. The army had refused to allow her to re-enlist because she said she was a lesbian.

Patrick Berigan, Ms. Ben-Shalom's attorney, said she will appeal.

Fatally injured

AUBAGNE, France, Aug 11, (UPI): A 4-year-old girl was fatally injured and three other people were hospitalized with serious injuries today when an explosion suspected to have been caused by a gas cylinder ripped through a house in southern France, police said.

Five other people were pulled out of the rubble by rescue workers after the two-story house at Aubagne in the Bouches-de-Rhone region collapsed. The blast occurred at 7.15 am near a Foreign Legion barracks.

Food sabotage

LONDON, Aug 11, (KUNA): British Food Company HP today confirmed that a second batch of sabotaged baked beans was spiked with glass.

The firm said it was withdrawing 100,000 cans, but at first would say only there had been "deliberate contamination."

The withdrawal followed the recall last month of a batch of 200,000 cans after consumers found glass slivers in six of them.

Today it was reported that seven more cans of beans were found to be spiked with glass.

Passengers stranded

TOULON, France, Aug 11, (AP): An electrical storm knocked out power to the train line along France's Mediterranean coast, stranding about 12,000 passengers overnight, railway officials said today.

Trains began running again about 9 am (0700 GMT) today, more than 12 hours after the brief storm interrupted service.

The national railroad, the Societe Nationale des Chemins de Fer Français, issued a statement apologizing for the problem and inviting customers who had been inconvenienced to apply to regional service offices for refunds or replacement tickets.

Unexpected hitch

PARIS, Aug 11, (UPI): Two attempts to ignite the apogee boost motor of a Hipparcos ultra-precise star mapper satellite have failed in an unexpected hitch in an ambitious European Space Agency mission, agency officials said today.

The attempts were made at the 4th and 5th apogees of the satellite's mission plan, a brief statement by the European Space Agency said. Mission control will try again to ignite the boost motor tomorrow and if necessary Sunday, the agency said.

"Technical assessment of the situation will continue and further attempts will be made at 6th apogee and, if not successful, at 11th apogee, which will occur on Aug 12 around 8 am and Aug 13 at approximately 4 pm respectively," it said.

Mechanical setback

LONDON, Aug 11, (KUNA): The British Royal Navy's newest submarine suffered another mechanical setback, just weeks after its electric motor failed during sea trials, it was reported here today.

The discovery of a fault in the hydraulic system of the diesel motor will almost certainly cause delays before it enters service, the British Ministry of Defence said.

A spokesman said it was hoped the 140 million pounds sub would be delivered to the Navy in about a year's time.

Nuns to stay

WARSAW, Aug 11, (Reuters): A Polish Roman Catholic church official said yesterday a group of nuns would remain until further notice in a convent at the former Nazi death camp of Auschwitz, despite bitter protests by Jews.

Bronislaw Fidelus, chancellor of the Krakow Curia which is responsible for the Carmelite convent, said the 17 nuns would stay because plans have been scrapped to build a prayer and information centre which would have housed them.



Fire of narcotics
Indian Minister of State for Finance, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, sets fire to a pyre of narcotics drugs in New Delhi on Thursday. Drugs worth of \$650m at street price seized by Indian customs. (Reuter wirephoto)

Botha signals anger at Klerk

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 11. (AP) — President P.W. Botha today signalled his anger at Foreign Minister F.W. de Klerk, who he said had been unable to arrange an agreement with the South African Communist Party (SACP) to end the apartheid system.

Botha, in a statement, said he was disappointed that de Klerk had not been able to achieve a breakthrough in the negotiations with the SACP. He said that the SACP had been "unwilling to make the necessary concessions" to end apartheid.

Botha also said that he was "disappointed" that de Klerk had not been able to secure the release of the 15 political prisoners who had been arrested in the 1970s. He said that he was "disappointed" that de Klerk had not been able to secure the release of the 15 political prisoners who had been arrested in the 1970s.

Protest over Denktash bid

Bulgarian Turks granted citizenship

NICOSIA, Aug. 11. (Agencies) — The Cyprus government called for urgent international action today to nullify the granting of citizenship to ethnic Turks from Bulgaria by the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state.

Government spokesman Akis Fantis branded the action "illegal, unacceptable and provocative."

He said President George Vassiliou summoned the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and the special representative of the UN secretary-general on the island to hand them a protest.

This "denounces the new illegal action by the (Rauf) Denktash regime and demands steps for its annulment," Fantis said.

The protests followed a report by the semi-official Turkish Anatolia news agency yesterday saying that Rauf Denktash, the President of the breakaway state in Turkish-occupied north Cyprus, and his cabinet had granted citizenship to nine ethnic Turks from Bulgaria.

The nine, members of two families, arrived in north Cyprus last month soon after Denktash offered to settle 30,000 ethnic Turks from Bulgaria in his mini-state.

Fantis charged "the main responsibility for the unacceptable action by the Denktash regime rests with Ankara, which gave repeated assurances that no Bulgarian Muslims would be settled in occupied Cyprus."

Greece also warned on Tuesday it would regard the settlement of Bulgarian Turks in north Cyprus as "a major issue, with all the consequences entailed in this term."

Turkey stated at the time Denktash made his offer it would use its own resources to house the more than 260,000 ethnic Turks.

In Ankara, a Muslim leader said today Islamic states should pressure Bulgaria to end what he called oppression of its ethnic Turks, some 270,000 of whom have left for Turkey in the past three months.

"Pressures exerted by Muslim countries will help end this oppression," said Abdullah Nasif, Secretary-General of the Muslim World League and part of a four-man Organisation of Islamic Conference team visiting Turkey over the issue.

Nasif, quoted by Anatolian news agency, was speaking after a visit to the border where he talked to Turks streaming across at a rate of 6,000 per day.

The group will submit its findings to OIC secretary-general Hamid Al Ghabid after leaving on Sunday.

The United States today accused Bulgaria of repressing its Turkish minority and violating human rights obligations.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters more than 250,000 Turks had fled Bulgaria as a result of its policy of forced assimilation and repression.

The United States feels very strongly that the government of Bulgaria must meet its human rights obligations, cease the religious and social persecution of its ethnic Turkish minority and provide an orderly departure with dignity and personal property for those who wish to leave Bulgaria," she said.

Soviet Politburo member Lev Zaikov has met Bulgaria's long-time communist leader Todor Zhivkov, state-run media reported without saying whether the talks included discussion of the mass exodus of Bulgaria's ethnic Turks.

The Soviet Union offered to mediate between Bulgaria and Turkey.

Two Soviet citizens crossed the Black Sea in a small boat and asked for asylum when they reached Turkey, an official said yesterday.

Search for peace

Mandela role

CAPE TOWN, Aug. 11. (Reuters) — Millions of South Africans seem eager to put their future in the hands of a black prisoner they have neither seen nor heard.

In a country torn by bloody rivalry within and between different race groups, many look to African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela to unite the nation in a search for peace and justice.

White moderates, black radicals, churches and trade unions unanimously demand his unconditional release and his inclusion in proposed negotiations on black rights.

Opinion polls indicate massive black and white support for Mandela as a spokesman in talks with the government. Even pro-government papers this year have been calling for his release and saying he could have a useful role in negotiations on South Africa's future.

A number of surveys canvassing both black and white opinion have shown Mandela to be the country's most popular over leader. Among Afrikaner (Dutch-descended) whites, only a minority would accept him as a black intermediary in talks or as a government minister or head of state, although many English speaking whites would accept him in such roles.

But Mandela may not be interviewed or photographed and no reliable test of his support is possible while the movement he led into armed rebellion in 1961 remains banned.

"You have here a truly exceptional man, a humanist in the most real sense of that word," said his biographer, sociology professor Fatima Meer. "If any man can unite this country and hold them together then he is that man."

Many political analysts and leaders of the Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) believe Mandela will be freed after parliamentary elections in September that will exclude the black majority.

But no one outside Mandela's immediate circle of guards and family visitors knows how well he has kept abreast of political developments in South Africa and within his ANC.

Some say he is in touch with the ANC and speaks for the movement now.

Others, like activist lawyer Essa Moosa, say he cannot negotiate on behalf of blacks until he has been free long enough to consult his people.

Mandela has been in jail since 1962, first breaking rocks in the stone fortress of Robben Island, then in a top-security mainland prison and now in the relative comfort of a guarded bungalow set among the vineyards of Paarl, near Cape Town.

Since he was last moved in December he has had access to uncensored newspapers, local radio and television and a wide range of visitors.

In a stunning development last month, Mandela, who has met regularly with Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee, was taken to have tea with President P.W. Botha.

But he still has no telephone, his letters are limited, he is not allowed a shortwave receiver and visitors assume their conversation is bugged.

The only ANC figures he has met have been fellow prisoners, like Walter Sisulu, who have been in jail as long as he has.

Sri Lanka accuses radicals of plotting

Bid to overthrow government

COLOMBO, Aug. 11. (Agencies) — Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said today Sinhalese radicals were planning to overthrow the government, as violence again swept the island-nation, claiming at least 23 lives.

"It is very clear there is a well-conceived plot to destroy those who are committed to the democratic form of government," he told Parliament during a debate. "Today, the people hesitate to talk about this situation because of fear. They have been terrorised."

Wijeratne also said lawmakers had received death threats. Military officials, meanwhile, said at least 23 people were killed between yesterday and today. The officials, said 71 suspected Sinhalese radicals had been arrested.

The dead victims included 16 civilians, two policemen and three Sinhalese radicals, the officials said. Details of the incidents were not immediately available.

Sinhalese radicals also killed two Tamils, the officials said. Wijeratne said 972 government officials and supporters of the governing United National Party had died in the two-year anti-government campaign by the People's Liberation Front, a ultra-nationalist Sinhalese group.

He also accused the extremists of assassinating 184 opposition politicians and 354 soldiers and policemen in the same period.

"All of you are aware that ruling party Members of Parliament have received death warrants from unseen hands," Wijeratne said.

"You are aware that some of our parliamentary colleagues have already been disposed of. Police say many lawmakers and senior government officials have received death threats from the front."

On Thursday, members of the front stormed a police station in a seaside tourist resort, killed two policemen and escaped with 17 automatic weapons, military officials said.

The officials said 25 Liberation Front members took part in the dawn attack on the police station in Bentota, a popular holiday resort 70 kilometres (40 miles) south of Colombo.

The extremists arrived in two vans, threw grenades at the station and opened fire with automatic weapons on guards, said the officials.

Police Inspector General Ernest Perera, who placed all police stations on alert against attacks by radicals from the Sinhalese majority following an escalation of violence.

Suspected state-sponsored death squads in Sri Lanka have killed more than 300 Sinhalese extremists in three days of unrest in the island nation, a senior security source said yesterday.

The violence by alleged vigilante "squads" comprised of police and soldiers triggered the retaliatory killing yesterday of two police officers, aged 400 relatives and associates of security personnel, police officials said.

"There has been a sharp escalation in violence," said the security source. He said more than 300 suspected members of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) were killed by the squads since Monday.

Sinhalese rebels have started killing the families of security men in their campaign to topple the Sri Lankan government, military sources said.

They said in the latest attack suspected members of the People's Liberation Front killed the wife and two daughters of a police sergeant who was away on duty.

The policeman's three other children and his father-in-law were seriously injured in the attack yesterday at Maho in the northwestern region. Their house was set on fire.

"This is the fifth incident reported within a week where subversives (the term used to describe the front) have killed families of servicemen," a government statement said.

Police say many lawmakers and senior government officials have received death letters from the front.

"All of you are aware that ruling party Members of Parliament have received death warrants from unseen hands," Wijeratne said in Parliament today. "You are aware that some of our parliamentary colleagues have already been disposed of."

Wijeratne today indicated Sri Lanka will re-evaluate its demand that India withdraw by next month all its forces from the northeast region of the Indian ocean island nation.

Official sources reported Premadasa was willing to again relent and would accept December as the final pullout time. A decision would be made during the cabinet meeting, they said.

The Front began its campaign of political assassinations in July 1987 after the Sri Lankan government signed an Indian-brokered accord aimed at making peace with ethnic Tamil guerrillas fighting for an independent homeland in the northern part of the island.

Former prime minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike on Wednesday urged a full parliamentary investigation to determine who is responsible for a wave of terror that claimed nearly 300 lives in the first eight days of August.

She urged Parliament to investigate the deaths and abductions, which often result on scores of bodies being found daily by roadsides and other sites.

Maldives sentences 13 more Lankans

NEW DELHI, Aug. 11. (AP) — The Maldives High Court yesterday sentenced 13 more Sri Lankans to varying prison terms for attempting a coup last year in the Indian Ocean archipelago, the Maldivian government said.

The sentences ranged from 15 one-half years to 21 years each, according to a statement telegraphed to New Delhi by the Maldivian Department of Information and Broadcasting.

With yesterday's verdicts, the court completed sentencing all 68 Sri Lankans who were on trial for coup attempt on Nov. 3, the statement said. At least 17 people died in the attempt.

Twelve of those convicted were sentenced to death. Dates on which the executions are to be carried out were not announced. Sentencing in the two-month trial began Sunday.

Those convicted yesterday were "found guilty, among other offenses, of invading Male with weapons of war (and) assisting the group of armed men who endangered the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Maldives," the statement said.

The Maldives are a string of 2,000 coral islands about 800 kilometres (500 miles) south of India and roughly the same distance southeast of Sri Lanka.

Blast victims

A relative identifying a victim killed in a bomb blast in the north Indian city of Karnal on Wednesday. 17 passengers were killed and 30 injured when a bomb planted by Sikh extremists on a bus exploded. (Reuter wirephoto)

No dry ground for burial

DHAKA, Aug. 11. (Agencies) — Diarrhoea has killed at least 20 more people in flood-ravaged north-eastern Bangladesh and many of their bodies were thrown into flood waters because there was no dry ground for burial, officials and news reports said today.

Health Ministry officials said two weeks of flooding in the Sylhet and Zakiganj districts had led to the outbreak of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases. At least 20 people died on Wednesday and yesterday, they said.

The deaths raise the government's official flood toll to 60, but newspapers say at least 190 people have died.

Sangbad, a Bengali-language newspaper, said hundreds of people were perched in treestops and on the roofs of houses to escape the floods. Some babies fell out of the trees and drowned, it said.

Bangladesh called in the army to evacuate thousands of villagers marooned by monsoon floods.

They said soldiers using rafts began taking emergency supplies to the Zakiganj, and picking up women, children, the old and sick.

Thousands of people were stranded in sweltering heat today as nearly 5,000 homeless protesters blocked a major highway linking Dhaka to northern Bangladesh, police said.

They said nearly 200 vehicles were forced to a halt in the protest by angry villagers who lost their homes in a severe tornado last April and have lived in the open ever since.

I do

PORT OF SPAIN, South Africa, Aug. 11. (Reuters) — South Africa's best-known couple and Juliet defied odds to get married and won black hearts when they married in a dusty bush.

White Afrikaner Annette Heunis and her black lover Jerry Tse were wed at the magistrate's court in a dusty bush in the nominally independent black island of Bophuthatsane.

A handful of Tse's relatives attended the wedding, but Heunis was the only white person present. Dozens of dancing Zulus also welcomed the couple back to their ancestral home after the ceremony.

They have pretty well exhausted those areas, said James Haley, a spokesman for the US embassy in Addis Ababa.

He said the searchers would return to areas along the plane's original flight plan, southwest of the capital.

Haley said ground parties and aircraft had

Act condemned

UN troops attacked

WINDHOEK, Aug. 11. (Reuters) — Gunmen have attacked United Nations troops for the first time since they arrived to police Namibia's progress towards independence, and the UN today condemned the assaults as terrorism.

A commercial security guard was killed when unidentified gunmen threw grenades and fired guns from a vehicle at a UN post in the northern Namibian town of Outjo.

A similar attack, in which no one was injured, was made on an Outjo military compound where Kenyan troops are billeted.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the yesterday evening attacks, the first on UN troops since they arrived on April 1 to supervise Namibia's transition to independence from South Africa next year.

The UN special representative in Namibia, Martti Ahtissari, deplored "all acts of terrorism" whether directed at the UN or other parties.

Searchers find no trace of missing plane

ADDIS ABABA, Aug. 11. (AP) — Searchers said today they found no trace of the missing plane carrying a US congressional delegation in two areas where satellites picked up suspected distress signals.

"They have pretty well exhausted those areas," said James Haley, a spokesman for the US embassy in Addis Ababa.

He said the searchers would return to areas along the plane's original flight plan, southwest of the capital.

Haley said ground parties and aircraft had

scoured rugged highlands north and southeast of Ethiopia's capital where satellites detected what officials said could be a distress signal from the missing plane.

They later were moved to a region southwest of Addis Ababa, where the plane carrying US congressman Mickey Leland and 15 other people were supposed to travel to a refugee camp near the Sudanese border. The plane disappeared Monday.

Haley said two Hercules C-130 cargo planes were equipped to pick up emergency locator

transmissions from a downed plane but heard nothing in the areas where two separate signals had been detected by US weather satellites.

He said foot patrols also were dispatched from nearby villages to investigate the sources of both signals but also found nothing.

Both signals were significantly off the recorded flight plan of the twin-engine plane carrying Leland and his party. Officials had said yesterday the signals may have come from other sources.

One of the signals was directly opposite the

INTERNATIONAL



New cabinet members

SUMIKO TAKAHARA, 56, left, director-general of Japan's Economic Planning Agency and Mayumi Morioka, 61, environment agency director-general, smile to reporters following their appointments at the premier's official residence in Tokyo Wednesday night.

Takahara, a former newspaper reporter, is the first non-politician to be named to a cabinet post in Japanese parliamentary history. Former Labour Ministry bureaucrat Morioka's motto is said to be "Women should not be dependent." (Reuters wirephoto)

Kaifu denies allegations

'Premier fathered illegitimate child'

TOKYO, Aug 11, (AP) Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu today denied an unsubstantiated report that he had fathered an illegitimate child and said he has asked the newspaper that published the story to apologize.

Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost main island, said they had refuted the rumour.

A Nagoya Times editorial staff member told the Associated Press by phone that Kaifu's secretary had called this morning to protest the story and ask for a retraction.

The story began in the winter of 1986-87, when a Geneva bank — Lombard Odier — blocked two bank accounts on the suspicion that they belonged to the former president of Philippines.

Confessed killer held in Tokyo

TOKYO, Aug 11, (AP) Police arrested a man today on suspicion of kidnapping and killing a five-year-old girl in a case that has shocked Japan and dominated the national news.

Police also were investigating 26-year-old Tsutomu Miyazaki's possible involvement in three other child murders in the Tokyo area, officials said.

Miyazaki was taken into custody July 23 after the father of a six-year-old girl caught him taking pictures of her naked. He was charged with indecent assault.

During questioning, police said Miyazaki confessed to killing Ayako Nomoto, whose torso was found near a public restroom in a cemetery northwest of Tokyo on June 11. He also directed police to where he had discarded her head, according to Shigeru Hashizume, Tokyo metropolitan police department spokesman.

Police today formally re-arrested Miyazaki, who has been in custody for the past three weeks on the indecent assault charge, on suspicion of kidnapping and murder.

Under Japanese law, he can be interrogated for up to 48 more hours before being turned over to prosecutors, who then have up to 20 days to investigate before releasing him or bringing charges.

Police are investigating whether Miyazaki was involved in the disappearance of three other young girls in the same suburban area.

Hashizume told a news conference Miyazaki confessed to kidnapping Ayako in early June, when Ayako was playing alone behind her apartment. Hashizume said Miyazaki confessed to killing the girl in his car and chopping off her hands, feet and head in his room.

"I didn't mean to kill Ayako, but I strangled her because I got mad when she made fun of the deformity in my hands," Miyazaki told police, according to Hashizume.

Khashoggi and Swiss accounts

GENEVA, Aug 11, (KUNA): The Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi had managed to lay his claim upon two Swiss bank accounts, later found to belong to the Marcos couple, the Swiss magazine L'Hebdo reported yesterday.

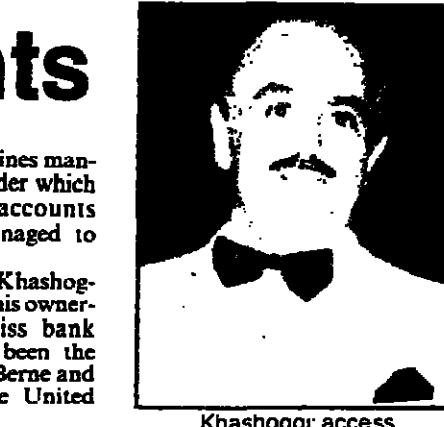
The story began in the winter of 1986-87, when a Geneva bank — Lombard Odier — blocked two bank accounts on the suspicion that they belonged to the former president of Philippines.

After receiving the consent of the federal police office, the Geneva court ruled that Khashoggi was indeed the owner of the accounts.

Access to the accounts apparently gave Khashoggi millions in money as well as documents relating to properties in New York, worth about \$600 million.

Within two months, however, the fraud was discovered as the government of Philippines managed to get a court order which reblocked the two accounts which Khashoggi managed to operate.

The article says that Khashoggi's success in proving his ownership of the two Swiss bank accounts could have been the cause of his arrest in Bern and his extradition to the United States.



Khashoggi access

Mao portrait vandal gets life

BEIJING, Aug 11, (Agencies): A Beijing court today sentenced a high school teacher to life in prison for drawing a portrait of Mao Tse-tung and then defacing it.

The Beijing Intermediate Court ruled the three men were guilty of "counter-revolutionary destruction and counter-revolutionary incitement and must be punished severely."

The newspaper did not say why Yu Zhifan, the teacher, was given the heaviest sentence. Yu Dongyue, a newspaper arts editor and no relation, was given 20 years and Lu Decheng, a factory worker, was given 16.

The three men, all in their 20s, were from central China's Hunan Province, Mao's birthplace.

They came to Beijing on May 19, one day before martial law was declared, to take part in student-led pro-democracy protests, according to official reports.

On May 23, as tens of thousands of protesters paraded through central Beijing's Tiananmen Square, they drew and defaced a portrait of Mao.

Aquino to discuss foreign debt in US

Lawyer claims rebels tortured

MANILA, Aug 11, (Agencies): President Corason Aquino is expected to focus on her country's foreign debt above the issue of US military bases during upcoming talks in Washington, the US ambassador said yesterday.

Negotiators for the two countries are expected to begin talks in December or early next year on whether to extend the lease on the US bases, which expires in September 1991.

"I think the issue will come up but I don't think it will dominate the agenda," Ambassador Nicholas Platt said in a radio interview. "My sense is that the President's visit... will focus more on the economic issue

like debt relief, assistance, trade and investments."

No date has been set for the visit, but officials indicated it would be in November.

It is to be Aquino's second official visit to Washington since coming to power in 1986. She visited the United States in September 1986.

Platt said Filipino and US officials were working on Aquino's agenda but he declined to discuss it further.

US officials say the Philippines, which owes nearly \$30 billion to foreign creditors, is the leading candidate for debt relief following last month's agreement between Mexico and its creditors.

Last Tuesday, Filipino officials resumed talks in New York with a consortium of private foreign creditors on the debt issue.

Platt repeated earlier assurances that Washington's participation in a five-year international plan to help the Philippines overcome its economic difficulties was not linked to the bases issue.

Nineteen countries and six international financial institutions pledged a total of \$5 billion to the fund last month.

A lawyer contended today that the military tortured 21 people arrested last month on suspicion of being communist rebels, and officials said Aquino has approved civilian trials for three soldiers accused of killing a leftist.

George Gaduang, a lawyer representing the people being detained, told reporters that 25 people arrested July 27 in raids on suspected guerrilla hideouts in the Manila area had still not been charged.

Gaduang said 21 of the 25 detainees had signed affidavits alleging they were tortured in an attempt to force them to confess to being members of a rebel urban assassination squad.

Their continued detention without charges is a clear violation of their constitutional rights," said Gaduang.



Cat-and-mouse game

Vietnamese refugees and their children hide in amongst a pile of baskets in a cat-and-mouse game with police outside the Sek Kong refugee detention centre in Hong Kong yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Burma frees 17,877

Allowed to meet

RANGOON, Aug 11, (AP): A British diplomat has received permission to see the English husband of detained Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a government spokesman said today.

Britain had protested to Burma that its diplomatic staff had been prevented from seeing Oxford University academic Michael Aris after he arrived July 22 in Rangoon to visit his family.

His wife, the leader of the most popular opposition group, the National League for Democracy, was placed under house arrest by the military government two days earlier.

Members were forbidden to make contact with diplomats, politicians or persons connected with political parties.

Government spokesman Kyaw Sann told the weekly government news conference in Rangoon that a meeting would be permitted between Aris and a British diplomat, but gave no more details.

Meanwhile, Burma's military government has released 17,877 prisoners as part of a recent amnesty, the official Working People's Daily newspaper said yesterday.

Villagers clash with boat people

HONG KONG, Aug 11, (Reuters): Police warned Chinese villagers in Hong Kong's new territories yesterday not to take the law into their own hands after clashes with Vietnamese boat people near a makeshift detention centre.

Villagers who live near the Sek Kong Centre, a tent camp that holds 7,200 boat people, formed vigilante groups after alleging two local women were attacked by Vietnamese earlier this week.

On Wednesday night police broke up a fight between villagers armed with clubs and Vietnamese wielding lengths of pipe. Three people were hurt.

"I can understand the villagers' frustrations but they must not take the law into their own hands," police senior superintendent Morgan Majure said.

Illness from N-tests 1,000 affected

MAJURO, Marshall Islands, Aug 11, (Reuters): The Marshall Islands government opened special hearings today into claims by more than 1,000 islanders that they have radiation-related illnesses from US nuclear tests years ago.

A British cancer expert said 66 bombs exploded on the islands between 1946 and 1958 made far more people sick than the US government has admitted.

More than 200 islanders crowded into two small hearing chambers in the capital Majuro where about 50 told a nuclear claims tribunal of high instances of cancer, miscarriages and birth deformities since the radiation fall-out.

New Zealand prime minister forms cabinet, Lange appointed attorney-general

WELLINGTON, Aug 11, (AP): New Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer formed his cabinet today and appointed his predecessor, David Lange, to the post of attorney-general.

Palmer took over as prime minister after Lange resigned Monday, citing health reasons. Lange ended his five-year-old government leadership following a year-long internal party wrangle over economic policy. Palmer was elected leader of the Labour Party the following day.

Lange, 47, also was named minister of state and put in charge of the serious fraud office. The positions, including that of attorney-general, fall outside the cabinet.

Lange said he was pleased with his new jobs, which he will assume officially on Monday.

Palmer made no major changes in the government's financial or economic portfolios. David Caygill remains finance minister and minister of revenue, with Peter Neillson staying as associate minister of finance outside of cabinet.

Stan Rodgers and Mike Moore become deputy ministers of finance. Moore also contended with Palmer for the job of party leader.

Roger Douglas, who was returned to cabinet last week after being dismissed by Lange last year as finance minister, was appointed minister of police and minister of immigration, as well as having responsibilities for the audit department and for special projects, such as planning election strategy.

The Labour government must go the polls by October, 1990.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Still on board

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia, Aug 11, (AP): The Polish cargo ship Marian Buczek, has sailed for Albania, still carrying 12 Vietnamese who stowed away on the ship in Ho Chi Minh City on July 31, Malaysian officials said yesterday.

A spokesman of the Marine Department said the 8,722-tonne vessel left Port Klang, 30 kilometres (18 miles) west of Kuala Lumpur, on Wednesday night for the Suez Canal.

The Immigration Department had refused to allow the 12 Vietnamese, aged between 10 and 30 years, to land in Malaysia, despite requests by the local representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Strong earthquake

HONG KONG, Aug 11, (AP): A strong earthquake was recorded yesterday in the vicinity of the island of Sulawesi, Indonesia, the Royal Hong Kong Observatory reported.

A statement said the epicentre of the quake, which measured 5.6 on the Richter Scale, was about 1,400 kilometres (868 miles) south of Manila.

An observatory spokesman said the quake was recorded at 1000 am (0200 GMT).

Crew survive

HONG KONG, Aug 11, (AP): Ten Chinese fishermen survived a 24-hour ordeal aboard tiny sampans by eating cardboard and drinking rain and sea water, but 14 others perished, today's report said.

On Wednesday, the survivors said they ate the southern Chinese port of Zhuhai adjacent to the Portuguese enclave of Macao 64 kilometres (40 miles) southwest of this British colony, the official news service reported.

Gold confiscated

KATHMANDU, Aug 11, (UPI): Custom officials confiscated 64 bars of gold, with a total weight of 11.92 kg, found hidden beneath a toilet dustbin in a Lufthansa aircraft which arrived in Kathmandu from Frankfurt via Karachi, Pakistan, authorities said yesterday.

KUWAIT/GULF

NCCAL to sign three more agreements

USSR student exchange in September

GENERAL Secretary for the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters Dr Farooq Al Omar said Kuwait has signed 11 cultural agreements and programmes with a number of countries this year. Preparations are under way to reach other cultural agreements during the next two months with Poland, Yemen, and Egypt.

Interviewed by a local daily, he stated that concerned authorities in the Soviet

Union sent a protocol team to organise the implementation of a cultural programme with Kuwait. A cultural agreement was signed between Kuwait and the Soviet Union recently to organise the cultural exchange between the two countries for three years.

Essential articles stipulated in the cultural programme between both countries include co-operation in fields of Islamic manuscripts, child culture, universities

and information exchange. Farooq indicated that during his last visit to the Soviet Union he was keen to sign this programme to stress Kuwait's readiness for co-operation in this field, particularly concerning Islamic manuscripts.

Scholarships

The council is currently conducting studies for establishing cultural centres for children in co-operation with the

Soviet Union.

On Kuwait Soviet Union co-operation in higher education affairs, the general secretary said the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters officially represents Kuwait's scientific and educational authorities. The agreement signed with the Soviets, therefore, emphasised the exchange of educational scholarships between universities. An agreement has been concluded to

provide 20 college scholarships, 10 scholarships for post-graduate studies and 5 scholarships for scientific training to the USSR.

In return Kuwait will present three scholarships at the Arabic Department of the Languages College of Kuwait University. He further pointed out that educational scholarships are scheduled to begin as of Sep 1989.

Special crime squad deployed in Salmiya

Dud cheques, theft on the increase

THE issuance of dud cheques and thefts top the list of crimes reported in Salmiya which is considered to be one of the most hectic in the field of commercial activities, Lt. Col. Ahmad Sadeq, Commander of the Salmiya area said.

The official added that crimes that could entail capital punishment such as murder are practically non-existent in the area.

Commenting on the issuance of dud cheques, Sadeq said that obviously some people are still not aware of the serious legal consequences of issuing dud cheques. "A dud cheque — irrespective of the amount (however, trivial) could lead to the issuer being sentenced to a term in prison," Sadeq said and called on banks to be more discerning in the issuance of cheque books. The credit standing of an account holder should be ascertained by bankers he stressed.

Authorisation

The official explained that security personnel are not authorised to prevent any car from parking at the shores of Kuwait or to enquire about the identity

of any girl who might be sitting beside a man in a parked car. Security personnel have been instructed to approach such cars, only in the eventuality that they are convinced that some form of immoral activity is being conducted. Only in these bona fide cases, can security men ask the occupants to accompany them to the police station. In these instances, occupants should ask for the identity of the persons prior to proceeding with them, he added. Police centres will entertain any complaint against security personnel who have misused their authority, the official said.

Maid

Speaking at some length on the perennial problems caused by the influx of maids, Sadeq commented that Kuwaiti society has been negatively affected to a great extent — problems not generally encountered in the past, he added.

The total dependence on maids has caused a "plethora" of problems for Kuwaiti families. Children left exclusively to the care of maids tend to imitate their

styles, their mannerisms, speech, and in many instances have been known to form close bonds of personal affection.

In other instances, when maids have been reprimanded for non-performance of their duties, some of these maids have been known to vent "their spleen" on infants. There have been numerous complaints where maids have added Chlorox (detergents) to the infant's milk, beating and torture of children and in some instances maids have been reported to have indulged in destroying the private organs of the child.

On the issue of problems caused by youths, the official stated that several complaints have been filed by families and girls that they are constantly being harassed and it become next to impossible to do any shopping or other social activities with these youths around.

A special force trained in the art of addressing all these problems has been formed and is being deployed at all busy areas in Salmiya, the official said.



Fish galore

Sizzling summer temperatures have not deterred this fisherman from going out to sea and casting his nets for a good catch. The heat further enhances the perishable quality of fish and so it was better for this fisherman to sell his catch fresh on the beach instead of taking time to sell it at the fish market. Fish prices are considerably lower at this time of the year.

Restrain abuse of teachers: academic

KUWAIT Teachers' Society plays an active role in supporting the rights of these professionals and is endeavouring to accord them their rightful place in keeping with their social status, Dr Ahmad Al Sarheed, assistant dean of the Fundamental Education Department at the Ministry of Education said.

Sarheed recommended raising teachers salaries and commented that laws should be designated to provide deterrent punishment to those students who directly or indirectly contribute to subverting the teaching profession and teachers in particular.

He pointed out that the social status of teachers is affected mainly by factors connected to teachers themselves. He added that appointing teachers without accurate and specific standards could have adverse effects on teachers' social standing. On the other hand, he pointed out that low salaries of teachers — particularly expatriate teachers — gives some students the misguided concept that they are not bound to accord the respect due or follow the directives. These factors call for improving teachers' employment standards and to provide confidentiality to those teachers who commit some minor mistakes.

The official said that the services of this sector of professionals have been grossly unappreciated, though they constitute building up the character, moral fibre and eventually moulding the responsibilities of the nation.

Sarheed stressed that Kuwaiti youths avoid joining the teaching profession due to the sub-standard salaries, lack of respect accorded to teachers by youths and the general social standing that society places them in.

However, Sarheed added that teachers who have been verbally or physically assaulted could in some cases be due to the weak personality of the teacher in laying down guidelines of behaviour in the classroom. The official proposed that teachers who encounter such incidents should be transferred to administrative posts at the ministry. Nevertheless, it is imperative that deterrent punishment be meted out to students who resort to verbal or physical abuse of teachers. Youths must clearly understand that they will not be permitted to indulge in acts which could lead to the breakdown of the teaching system, the official said.

In a determined bid to address the various problems and enhance the activities of the teaching profession making it a rewarding area of specialisation — both professionally and monetarily, the society undertook several educational conferences, Sarheed added.

Egypt exhibition

CAIRO, Aug 11, (KUNA): Kuwait's Ambassador to Egypt Abdul Razak Al Kandari today met with Culture Minister Farouk Hosni and conveyed, him a message from Kuwaiti Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah.

The ambassador told KUNA here that the message was dealing with the Egyptian movies' copy rights in Kuwait and the Information Ministry's efforts to safeguard these rights.

He indicated that Hosni, on the other hand, welcomed the holding of a Kuwaiti information exhibition here on the occasion of HH the Amir's visit to Egypt during Aug 23-20.

The exhibition will focus on progress of Kuwait-Egypt relations and co-operation in addition to displaying the various books published in Kuwait.

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Retaliatory customs restrictions on foreign trucks

A SENIOR Kuwaiti customs official said here Thursday that recent Kuwaiti customs restrictions on Arab and foreign trucks were in retaliation for the continuing harassment in some Arab countries of Kuwaiti trucks.

Director of the Customs General Department, Ibrahim Al Ghanim told a local daily that in keeping with Arab and bilateral customs accords, Kuwait believes in the principle of equality.

Ghanim said Arab and foreign trucks have been banned from carrying cargo from Kuwait after unloading here, except when given approval by Kuwaiti customs officials, in retaliation for the uncalled for

discrimination against Kuwaiti trucks in some Arab countries.

He said original restrictions on Kuwaiti truck movement by some Arab countries are in violation of Arab transit accords, the Gulf Co-operation Council Economic Agreement and bilateral commercial accords.

Ghanim indicated that the retaliatory Kuwaiti decision, which took effect in the middle of last month, had led to a 15 per cent increase in overland transport rates.

Another direct outcome of the Kuwait ban, he said, has been a change of mind by one of the Arab countries which hitherto

has been unfair to Kuwaiti trucks.

Ghanim hoped that Arab and Gulf states will abide by the collective bilateral agreements that serve Arab commercial co-operation. He added that it is impossible that Kuwait alone abides by the Arab agreements while other countries ignore them. He estimated the Kuwaiti land transportation fleet at about 30,000 to 35,000 trucks and trailers.

He further added that some Kuwaiti land transport companies have registered their trucks in neighbouring countries to escape restrictions and maltreatment against Kuwaiti trucks. He added that some Arab embassies in Kuwait are fol-

lowing the consequences of the decision and one of these countries is taking positive steps to stop the hindrance of Kuwaiti trucks. Kuwait has reciprocated procedures towards trucks and trailers of that country, he said.

Ghanim pointed out that the decision was taken due to the increase of problems faced by drivers of Kuwaiti trucks and trailers at customs check points of some Arab states. He added that these troubles aim at preventing Kuwaiti trailers from entering to load goods. "These countries did not respond to our correspondences calling them to abide by Arab bilateral agreements," he said.

KUWAIT INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL SPECIALISATION

Secretary General Office

PART I MRCOG AND FRCS COURSES & EXAMINATIONS IN KUWAIT:

Courses:

KIMS has the pleasure to announce that the next courses for PART I "MRCOG" and "FRCS" will be held in Kuwait in collaboration with the Royal Colleges as under:

PART I M.R.C.O.G. course	— from November 25, 1989 to January 11, 1990
PART I F.R.C.S. course	— from February 10, 1990 to April 19, 1990

Application and relevant information:

Prescribed Application Forms are obtainable along with relevant information from the Secretary, Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, P.O. Box: 24923, 13110 Safat, Kuwait.

Completed application forms with 2 recent photographs and recommendations from 2 referees (in sealed envelopes) should be submitted to:

PROFESSOR S. ROY CHOUDHURY
DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY
FACULTY OF MEDICINE
P.O. BOX: 24923
13110 SAFAT, KUWAIT

not later than WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1989.

EXAMINATIONS:

PART I MRCOG Examination will be held in Kuwait on Monday, 5 March, 1990. Application forms for the examination are to be obtained from and submitted directly to the:

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGISTS
27 SUSSEX PLACE, REGENT'S PARK, LONDON NW1 4RG
by DECEMBER 1, 1989.

PART I FRCS Examination will start in Kuwait on May 10, 1990. Application forms for the examination are to be obtained from and submitted directly to the:

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF EDINBURGH
NICOLSON STREET
EDINBURGH EH8 9DW, UNITED KINGDOM
latest by February 10, 1990. A few application forms are available at the Department of Anatomy, Faculty of Medicine, Kuwait.

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New Kuwait University deans nominated

Appointment decision in September

A COMMITTEE set up by the Council of Kuwait University to select deans of different faculties of the university has completed its work and nominated the new deans of the faculties. Reliable sources said that the committee selected Dr Abdul Rahman Al Ahmad for the post of Assistant Rector for Scientific Affairs, Dr Kafa

Ramadan Dean of Faculty of Education, Dr Amal Al Azbi Al Sabah Dean of Faculty of Arts (instead of Dr Abdullah Al Muhanna who was elected as dean of the faculty last year and submitted his resignation last June), Dr Fahd Al Rashid Dean of Faculty of Commerce, Dr Jassem Abdul Salam Dean of Faculty of Science, and Dr

Abdulla Al Fihaid as Dean of Students Affairs. The committee also selected Dr Bader Al Yacoub as Dean of Faculty of Law after the tenure of the present Dean Dr Adel Tabetbaci next month and Dr Ajed Al Nashmi as Dean of Faculty of Sharia and Islamic Studies after the tenure of Dr Ahmad Al Ghandour.

The post to be awarded of Dean of Faculty of Higher Studies after the completion of the term of the present Dean Dr Ali Akbar at the end of this month is still being considered. The sources added that decisions to appoint the new deans will be issued in the beginning of the new term.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amiri cable

KUWAIT, Aug 11, (KUNA): HH the Amir of Kuwait has sent a cable of congratulations to Jordanian monarch King Hussein Bin Talal on the occasion of his ascension to the throne.

Premier's cable

KUWAIT, Aug 11, (KUNA): HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salim Al Sabah has sent a cable of congratulations to Jordanian monarch King Hussein Bin Talal on the occasion of his ascension to the throne.

Awqaf visit

KUWAIT, Aug 11, (KUNA): Undersecretary of Kuwait's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Mohamed Nasser Al Hamdan leaves on Sunday for the Soviet Union to represent Kuwait at celebrations by the religious Muslim administration for Siberia and Europe to be held during August 15-25.

The official said he would take part in the celebrations at the invitation of chairman of the religious administration for Muslims in Euro-Russia and Siberia Mufti Takhal Dinov.

Biggest annual celebration of the religious administration will be held in the Soviet city of Ufa, and Khazan, Hamdan indicated.

Education meet

DAMASCUS, Aug 11, (KUNA): The fourth conference of Arab Higher Education Ministers will open here on August 29 to discuss higher studies and scientific research in the Arab world.

The three-day conference aims at upgrading co-operation in the field of higher studies to serve the Arab nation.

Syrian Higher Education Minister Kamal Sharrif met here yesterday with Kuwaiti officials to discuss the conference.

Ties hailed

KUWAIT, Aug 11, (KUNA): Egyptian Information Minister Salwat Al Sharif today hailed Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations and attached great importance to the upcoming visit by HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad to Cairo.

In an interview with a local daily, the Egyptian minister added that the Palestinian question and the Lebanese crisis will top discussions between the two countries' leaders, particularly after latest developments in the two issues.

Sharif said that the visit, which will begin on August 28, comes in continuation of talks between the two leaders during the last Islamic summit in Kuwait, indicating to the two countries' co-operation in the military, economic, judicial and investment fields.

Working groups have been set up for activating bilateral information co-operation following the visit by Kuwait's Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad to Egypt recently, he indicated.

Al Yaqza denial

KUWAIT, Aug 11, (KUNA): Publisher and editor-in-chief of Kuwaiti weekly magazine Al Yaqza Ahmed Yousif Bebehani has denied that he had assigned an Egyptian journalist to go to Israel on behalf of the magazine.

Bebehani told KUNA that he had no knowledge of a report by the London-based Arabic language Al Quds Al Arabi newspaper which quoted Radio Israel as saying an Egyptian journalist had arrived in Israel on assignment by the magazine.

Indian embassy

A PRESS release from the Indian embassy in Kuwait has said that the embassy will remain closed on Saturday, August 12, on account of Muharram.



Omrah trip

A group of girl students representing the summer clubs left yesterday for Saudi Arabia to perform Omrah at the cost of HH the Amir. A group of male students left two days ago for the same purposes. The two delegations will visit a number of holy sites in Makkah and Madina.

EPC to implement several projects in current fiscal year

ADMINISTRATIVE Director of the Environment Protection Council, Ibrahim Al Hadi said the council will implement several important projects during the current fiscal year. These projects include a research on the protection of underwater outlets conducted by Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR). The study aims at an evaluation of speedy distribution at water inlets or flow lines in accordance with hydraulic factors using mathematical and physical models. The study is envisaged to be completed in 12 months.

Exhaust Had stated that the council will implement a study on the removal of chemicals from gases resulting from automobile exhausts and that the study to be implemented by Kuwait University will be completed in 36 months. It has been determined that

over the lifespan of an automobile it emits its weight in carbon dioxide.

Another study which aims at preparing an Atlas for sea living creatures during high and low tides is to be undertaken by KISR. The study will produce pictures of all sea animals living and breeding at low and high tide areas on the stretch of Kuwaiti beaches. He added that this study is expected to be completed in 26 months.

Hadi said other projects are still under implementation include development of fresh water resources by solar techniques for use at desert areas. This study is also being conducted under the supervision of KISR and is scheduled to be completed in 1990. One of the studies being supported by the council is a field study on the effect of climatic factors on concrete conducted by Kuwait University.

Hussein satisfied with Shaker's Gulf visit

Grants received

AMMAN, Aug 11, (KUNA): King Hussein of Jordan has expressed satisfaction over "good results" of recent talks by Jordanian Prime Minister Zaid Bin Shaker in Kuwait and Qatar, it was officially announced here yesterday.

Bin Shaker, who conducted a two-day tour of the two Gulf states Wednesday, submitted a report on the outcome of his talks with Kuwaiti and Qatari leaders to King Hussein.

In a statement to Jordanian news agency, Petra, Bin Shaker expressed thanks and gratitude at the spirit of fraternity and brotherhood that characterised his discussions with the Kuwaiti and Qatari officials.

He emphasized that during those talks he touched "the keenness of brethren in supporting Jordan to overcome economic difficulties it was facing."

The Jordanian premier stated that the Gulf Co-operation Council member states would adopt measures aimed at boosting Jordan's economic march and bolstering its capabilities to surpass present economic hardships.

Jordanian Central Bank Governor Dr Mohammed Saeed Al Nabulsi, who visited the United Arab Emirates early this week, disclosed earlier that Saudi Arabia and the UAE had decided to offer Jordan grants of \$200 million and \$70 million dollars.

Dhahar residents complain of total lack in amenities

RESIDENTS of Al Dhahar area complained that their area lacks almost everything. They said that the concerned authorities pay no attention to their area. They described the Al Dhahar housing project carried out by the National Housing Authority, a black stain in the government-sponsored housing projects. One citizen said that bricks are still falling from their houses, water is leaking in addition that the houses themselves are not comfortable. The citizen said that the problem came about because the contractor did not follow the basic construction rules and for this reason, all the inhabitants are still complaining. He called upon officials to form an investigation committee of engineers and experts to study the causes of the problem in Al Dhahar houses. He also demanded stiff punishment against all those responsible for the trouble. He said that if the committee concludes that the area is not fit for residing in its houses, the citizens must be given houses in other government projects.

He added that the municipality is not carrying out its duties in the best way, particularly concerning cleaning. He added that the garbage that litters the streets of the area is clear evidence of this. Cleaning workers have no devotion to their work. They simply clean part of the trash and leave the rest. Garbage vehicles do the same. They do not pick up garbage that falls from the vehicle. He said that this is the best place to live in the area, where they have plenty of garbage.

He also complained of the disturbance caused by young men who remain outside in the streets till late hours of the night. They use cars for racing. He proposed opening a youth centre in the area where youth can engage their leisure time in playing games or learning a profession. He also demanded more police patrols to control misbehaviour as the police station in the area does not carry out its duties in the best way.

Daunting expenses at US colleges

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (KUNA): College costs are rising as much as 9 per cent this fall, according to a college board survey out yesterday.

Average increases in tuition and fees ranged from 6 per cent at public two-year colleges to 9 per cent at private four-year colleges, while public four-year institutions raised their tuition and fees an average of 8 per cent, the study said.

The college board figures are a reminder that paying for college can be a daunting expense, with annual charges at some elite institutions climbing close to \$22,000.

The most expensive institutions in the country once again is Bennington College in Vermont, with tuition, fees, room and board priced at \$19,997 and other expenses estimated at \$1,800 for a total cost of \$21,775.

Others at the top of the list include Brandeis University in Massachusetts and Sarah Lawrence College in New York, both with tuition, room and board costing just under \$20,000. At Harvard University and Radcliffe College in Massachusetts, tuition, fees, room and board along with other expenses total \$21,250.

David Breneman, a Brookings Institution scholar and former president of Kalamazoo College in Michigan, said that at the current price, prices will double in about eight years.

Power programme

RIYADH, Aug 11, (OPECNA): A Saudi Arabian company has won a contract to supply electric power to villages in more remote regions of the kingdom which are not served by the national grid, according to Mahmoud Abdullah Taibas, governor of Saudi General Electricity Organization.

The \$1.48 million project, which involves the installation of 93 generating units, is part of a programme implemented by the government in 1977 aimed at providing power supplies to every city and village in the kingdom.

Current projects included those located at Qassim, Hail, Najran, Jabi Fefa, Al Jouf and Wadi Al Dawsir.

Attempts to solve duty overlapping in ministries

THERE are 544 fields where the duties and authority of the government ministries and establishments overlap, according to a report submitted recently to the Council of Ministers by a working team set up to recommend solutions. The team was set up by the Civil Service Commission under instructions by the Council of Ministers.

The team submitted its first report to the Council of Ministers and said it was holding further meetings with the various government departments to continue its attempts to find a solution to the problem. The report said that Kuwait Municipality has the largest number of duties overlapping with other ministries and establishments with as much as 52 such fields. There are 46 government ministries and public establishments covered by the team's efforts. The report said that urgent solutions are required to solve overlapping in some cases, while simple coordination is required in other cases.

Meetings

The team said in its report that it held several expanded meetings with the 46 government departments involved during the period from December 88 to March 89. The team defined overlapping as the same activity or public service being carried out by a number of government sides, which usually hinders providing the service to the public in the best way and involves waste of public funds and efforts. It cited the example of the Municipality and Public Health Ministry, both being responsible to examine food stuffs.

The team aims at solving overlapping and achieving what it described as integration and co-ordination between the various government sides in being responsible for a particular field or activity.

A special sub-committee set up by the team prepared a legal study on the laws and decrees governing the activities of all the government agencies involved in the overlapping. The study mentioned all the duties assigned to the various government sides by the laws and decrees. It added that the team also prepared another study on public services which included all the sides having any relation with providing public services. The study proposed new schemes for providing the services which will facilitate reducing overlapping between government sides in a bid to increase the standard of services. The report said that the team also supervised a number of meetings, held between Kuwait Municipality and other government agencies in order to help speed up the process of solving overlapping.

The report said that the use of the systems available with the Public Authority for Civil Information, can greatly improve the standards of many services and added that the team is currently working on an important project to help solve overlapping through a computerised programme. The team is now evaluating the costs and feasibility of such a project which will help sort out government duties through computer programmes.

The report said that the proposal of establishing a public authority for the industrial areas is sound. But, it stressed that the draft law governing the proposed authority, which was studied by the team, does not achieve the purposes of the authority.

It said that some of the clauses of the draft law are unclear and may still lead to overlapping in duties with other ministries and establishments. But the report supported the idea of starting the authority in Shuaiba Industrial Area, to be the main nucleus of the proposed industrial areas authority.

Expatriate youth air grievances

Residence, education and licence main issues

YOUTH has been and continue to be a topic which is accorded a high-level of priority and concern from various authorities, including the media.

A local daily who has written at some length on this issue hosted a number of expatriate youths at its diwaniya specifically to zero in on the ramification of the parameters related to expatriate youth.

The session laid particular emphasis on a number of issues which represent "problematic areas" for these youth. These are: rents of flats, driving licences, university admissions, and lack of recreational areas — not necessarily in order of priority.

Basma Al Shihabi believes residence in the country is considered one of the most important problems of expatriates in general. The second problem faced by most expatriates in Kuwait is obtaining a driving licence, or replacing an international or Arab licence with a local one. Meanwhile, Basma added that joining Kuwait University is a dream to all expatriate high school graduates in Kuwait. She stated that the rate of expatriate students admission to Kuwait University is very low. Commenting on the rents issue, she said that a large number of expatriates believe that rents are very high considering Kuwait's unstable economic conditions and low employment rates. She added that salaries have dropped to half at most private establishments.

University Talking on the university admission policy for expatriates, Mohammed stated that one of his relatives has obtained 94 per cent in her secondary education certificate examination from the scientific section in 1988 and hoped to join Kuwait University but was rejected. His relative then tried at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training where she was accepted in the nursing section and was forced to join in order not to leave the family. He said that most youth fall victim to this problem, they either accept the place given to them or take up a low paid job just to stay legal in the country.

Mohammed suggested the establishment of a private university and described it as a positive step to prevent the migration of Arab students who leave to study abroad. He said that many preferred the idea of establishing a private university because they know it will solve their problems and at the same time the country will benefit. He said that one of his friends who is described as a real genius was refused admission at Kuwait University despite 96 percentage marks at the general secondary education examination. His friend then applied for a student visa at the American embassy in Kuwait where he was welcomed by the cultural attaché and given a visa along with a \$3,000 monthly scholarship to join the computer engineering college at one of the universities there.

Rents Regarding the rent problem, he pointed out that he is forced to live in an expensive flat and according to the contract reached between him and the landlord, tenants have to pay for the repairs conducted inside their apartments while the landlord is only responsible for repairs conducted externally. He said that at one time he had to replace his own water tank and that the landlord refused to pay expenses. He is now paying KD120 per month rent but his salary is only KD200. He is astonished that the rents are still high despite at least 20,000 empty flats around Kuwait.

Rules Mohammed Jameel Mohammed an accountant at one of the contracting companies was born in Kuwait and has been living here since. He had received his education at Kuwait schools and Kuwait University, he now suffers from a residence problem saying that his residence (Iqama) will expire next October. He pointed out that he wishes to transfer his residence to another establishment after spending five months at an establishment he is currently working at but, without receiving his salary. He added that he had found many employment opportunities at several banks, and investment companies but, the new residence law was an obstacle due to that fact that an employee at the private sector has to spend a minimum of three years before moving on to another establishment.

Mohammed tried to get permission from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour but, was not able to. He hoped that the residence law by cutting down the three years period to one year or two years at the maximum.

Mohammed indicated that he could have sued his employer for not paying his salary for as long as five months now but, he added that thousands of cases like his are being fought in the courts of law. He also said that he would be very happy if he had received only a part of his salary. He pointed out that he does not believe that the company he is working at is bankrupt but, it often waits to be paid from the main contractor who usually takes its own time transferring funds.

Mohammed is very happy that he has a driving licence, pointing out the fact that the Ministry of the Interior represented by the General Traffic Department has opened the doors for some expatriate groups like engineers, teachers and university students in order to obtain their driving licences or replacing their non-Kuwaiti licences with local ones. He added that obtaining a driving licence helped his life. He pointed out that many expatriates are still suffering because they cannot get a driving licence.

Kholood Ouda an employee in the private sector said that her husband has suffered the same problem as he has not received his salary for as long as three years. He went to court and filed a complaint but, unfortunately the contractor left the country without paying anybody.

She stated that the new residence law has caused confusion among expatriates since they cannot anymore enjoy job security in a country in which they were born and lived almost half of their lives.

Rights Kholood said that she has been living in Kuwait for twenty four years and has never had any problems with her residence permit adding that she will be forced to leave the country in 45 days if her employer happened to cancel her residence.

Kholood has no objections to the new residence law since it may help Kuwait achieve a balance in its population but she added that there should be a law to protect some of the cases, particularly those who were born in Kuwait and lived in it and became a part of the society here. She stated that as a Palestinian with no country to go to she should have the right to admit her children at government schools. She said that many Palestinian expatriates are now faced with the pressures of residence rules, high rents, depressing economic conditions and employers who threaten their employees with deportation.

She added that as a productive member in society, she has the right to obtain a driving licence. She stated that if every expatriate family member obtains a driving licence, it would be difficult financially to own more than two cars per family.

Problems Khadeja Abu Mwas — a teacher at a private school pointed out that she had a dependant residence and when appointed at one of the private schools under a one year renewable contract her residence was transferred to the school she is currently working at. She said that the school director had cancelled her contract two months ago and had replaced her with other teachers who are paid less salaries. Khadeja was faced with the problem of not being able to transfer her residence to another school because the new residence law had prohibited such transfers. Her case is still awaiting decision at the Private Education Department of the Ministry of Education. She pointed out that many of her friends had advised her to meet the minister of social affairs and labour because she was born in Kuwait and is a daughter of a man who have been working at the Ministry of Public Health for as long as 27 years. She stated that the new residence law has unjustly threatened employees and gave employers the chance to completely control their employees.

From the courts

2 years for adultery THE Criminal Court has found a housemaid guilty of adultery and sentenced her to two years in jail with hard labour to be followed by deportation, while her accomplice was fined KD50.

The court heard that the maid stole a key to the apartment where she worked as her employers usually locked her up before they left for work. But a neighbour told them that frequently an Indian male would come into the flat after they left.

3 years for adultery TWO Sri Lankan house employees have been charged with adultery and sentenced to three years jail terms to be followed by deportation.

Both suspects admitted to the Criminal Court that they had met on several occasions to commit adultery under the roof of their employer's house.

The illegal relation was brought to the court's attention when the suspects were caught in the act by their employer.

Dope dealers sentenced THE court has sentenced three people charged with dealing and using drugs to varying imprisonment terms, following security investigations that led to their arrest.

A CID agent managed to trap the first suspect with marked currency which he paid him in return for a roll of drugs. The accused was arrested as he delivered the merchandise.

The man identified his source to the court and the other two suspects were arrested by the police.

Investigations continue SECURITY investigations continue into a case in which a simple dispute between two playmates resulted in one receiving several knife stabs on the chest which required immediate hospitalisation.

The boy, a resident of Jahra, quarrelled with one of his companions and the latter stabbed him several times on the chest with a sharp knife.

ACC housing ministers to exchange views

CAIRO, Aug 11, (KUNA): Housing ministers of the Arab Co-operation Council (ACC) will meet tomorrow to discuss ways of strengthening co-operation among its members in the fields of housing and production of building materials.

In their three-day meeting they will discuss exchange of expertise between their countries in housing and construction fields.

Meanwhile, the first conference of the Arab Co-operation Council's information ministers started today in Baghdad.

The two-day conference discusses information co-operation among the concerned countries in broadcasting, TV, and news agencies, and working out a unified informational strategy for deepening common understanding between the peoples of the ACC.

The ACC groups Egypt, Jordan, Yemen Arab Republic and Iraq. It was established last February.

UAE European imports increase

ABU DHABI, Aug 11, (GNA): According to a recent statistical release here, the value of total imports to the UAE from European countries increased during 1988 to 11 billion dirhams compared to 9.9 in 1987, while the value of exports and re-exported items decreased to 1.155 billion dirhams compared to 3.654 billion dirhams in 1987.

The release points out that the value of imports from Britain came at the top of the list among European imports, and the total value of which stood at 3.056 billion dirhams, compared to 2.695 billion dirhams in 1987.

The release also says that the value of exported and re-exported items stood at 226 million dirhams compared to 268 million dirhams.

West Germany came second, according to the release, in the highest second value of imports

coming from Europe as the amount stood at 2.226 billion dirhams compared to 2.293 billion dirhams in 1987, while the value of exported and re-exported items stood at 244 million dirhams.

As to Italian imports, the release goes on, the total amount of which was 1.426 billion dirhams, while that of exports and re-exports reached 84 million dirhams.

The \$1.48 million project, which involves the installation of 93 generating units, is part of a programme implemented by the government in 1977 aimed at providing power supplies to every city and village in the kingdom.

Current projects included those located at Qassim, Hail, Najran, Jabi Fefa, Al Jouf and Wadi Al Dawsir.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

MAN cannot discover new oceans unless he has courage to lose sight of the shore—Andre Gide, French writer (1869-1951).

PRESS REVIEW

Al Rai Al Aam: Blamed the US contradictory and biased policy in favour of Israel for the crises in the Middle East, including the hostage crisis in Lebanon.

Al Rai Al Aam said in an editorial comment today that the US official policy in the Middle East seldom conforms with realities and is characterized by duplicity.

On reports about behind-the-scenes negotiations by the US to trade off Iranian frozen assets for the hostages in Lebanon, the newspaper observed that Washington opted to remain open-minded in such a small crisis.

But in bigger crises, it stressed, "the US prefers to close its eyes, mind and heart."

Al Rai concluded by attributing complexity of conditions in the Middle East to the US ambiguous policy, multiple stands and loss of credibility, saying Washington "tells the Arab leaders what it cannot say to Israel and asks the latter for what it cannot do by itself." (KUNA).

Al Rai Al Aam commented Thursday that the suicide car bomb attack on an Israeli military convoy in south Lebanon is proof that the Zionist entity will not enjoy peace until it ends military occupation of Arab land.

"The commando operation, being part of the violence raking the Mideast region, cast serious doubt on the feasibility of the security belt set up by Israel on Arab land and at their expense," a front-page editorial said.

Al Rai Al Aam said Israel's abduction of southern Lebanese cleric Abdul Karim Obeid has heightened tensions in Lebanon.

The paper expressed belief that the Israeli occupation Army in southern Lebanon is set to be dealt more suicidal attacks by the national resistance in the coming days.

"So long as Israel continues to spark fresh rounds of violence by acts of kidnap and military operation against civilians, the national Lebanese resistance will direct new attacks on the Israeli Army," **Al Rai Al Aam** said.

An Israeli Army spokesman admitted that five soldiers were wounded in South Lebanon "security zone" when a lone driver rammed his bomb-laden car into the convoy on Thursday. (KUNA).

Khaleej Times. A United Arab Emirates English language daily, welcomed the "overwhelming endorsement of Yasser Arafat's recent peace moves by the Fatah saying it 'significantly enhances his prestige as a peacemaker'."

"The importance of this latest mandate by more than 1,100 delegates who met for the first time in nine years, lies in the fact that the Fatah faction has been the backbone of the Palestinian movement," the Dubai-based **Khaleej Times** said.

"It has come a long way from being the advocate of a radical approach to the Middle East conflict some years ago to its pragmatic image that is making headway under Arafat's leadership," the paper said.

The paper said repeated calls by the Fatah delegates to the United States and European countries to support their peace moves indicate that moderate Palestinians want "to see their peace intentions reciprocated."

"Once again it has been demonstrated forcefully that the Arafat framework remains the only credible way of achieving a just and lasting peace in the Middle East," it said.

"If Israel and its backers refuse to recognise this reality even now, the Palestinians must not be blamed for failure—they have gone all out to give peace a chance," the paper pointed out. (KUNA).

Al Bayan, a United Arab Emirates newspaper, commented editorially on the killing of a Palestinian child by Israeli troops in the occupied territories.

It said in part: "Yesterday Israeli troops shot dead 6 1/2 year-old Palestinian child in one of a series of similar incidents that have gone on for more than 20 months. Such an incident is repeated every day and has become part of normal Israeli practices against the Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza."

"But the crime has not sparked playing of the drums of war nor did it prompt a meeting of the US National Security Council. No one volunteered to issue a statement threatening revenge. No president cut short his visit and weigh options."

"A simple comparison between the killing of that child and the reported hanging of US hostage Lieut Col William Higgins shows clearly the flagrant hypocrisy which dominates the positions of the big powers, especially the West. It is not only hypocrisy, but even a conspicuous racism."

"Why all this silence towards the murder of the Palestinian child? Surely his innocence is not in doubt. He never carried a gun nor can he ever carry it. He was never accused of spying nor did he take part in battles or conspire against the future of a people." (KUNA).

The Milwaukee Journal: China owed much to Deng Xiaoping before he started dismantling his own legacy. He had breathed vitality into a perennially decrepit economy and even set the stage, unwittingly perhaps, for the democracy movement that convulsed the nation earlier this year. However, at the rate Deng and other leaders are going now, the 84-year-old political boss may not have much to show for his best efforts by the time he leaves the scene.

The world is painfully aware of what happened to the democracy movement. It was crushed by military might and police-state tyranny. And now the once-pragmatic regime in Beijing is reverting to failed Marxist policies in the hope of regaining the confidence of disgruntled workers, at least.

In the end, the reversion to narrow Marxist dogma isn't even likely to help the party remain in power. Rather, it is likely to heighten discontent and make new political upheavals unavoidable.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1499 — Turks defeat Venetian fleet at Sapienza, Italy.
- 1512 — English fleet destroys 25 French vessels in Harbour of Brest.
- 1530 — Florence is restored to Medici family in Italy by Holy Roman Empire troops.
- 1667 — Duke of Lorraine and Louis of Baden defeat Turks under Suleiman Pasha at Battle of Mohacs, thus subduing Croatia and Transylvania.
- 1759 — Russian and Austrian forces defeat Prussians at Kunersdorf, Germany, and Dresden falls into Austrian hand.
- 1813 — Austria declares war on France.
- 1898 — Hawaiian Islands in Pacific are transferred to United States.
- 1903 — Japan sends note to Russia for failure to evacuate Manchuria.
- 1938 — Germany begins mobilization of its armed forces.
- 1941 — French Marshal Henri Philippe Petain calls on his countrymen to give full support to Nazi Germany in World War II.
- 1960 — UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld and United Nations troops enter Katanga.
- 1970 — West Germany and Soviet Union sign nonaggression pact in Moscow.
- 1971 — Syria severs diplomatic relations with Jordan as border fighting breaks out.
- 1972 — Last US ground combat unit in South Vietnam is deactivated.
- 1986 — Violence flares during parade by thousands of Protestants in Northern Ireland commemorating end of 15-week siege by a Roman Catholic Army in 1959.
- 1987 — Britain and France order mine sweepers to the troubled oil-rich Gulf region.
- 1988 — Sein Lwin resigns as President of Burma and all other major posts following three days of violent anti-government protests.



Some of the several hundred vehicles of ethnic Turks fleeing Bulgaria packed with personal belongings line the road waiting to be allowed further south to the Turkish border.

No change in policy on Turkish exodus

Sofia sheds few tears

A QUARTER of a million ethnic Turks have fled this small Balkan country in two months, but in the neat, orderly streets of its capital, Bulgaria displays little sense of loss.

Since the exodus started, officials say 5.4 per cent of the work force has resigned. But planners calmly predict few upsets and say the harvest is even better than planned.

Many Bulgarians voice shock and surprise at the size of the exodus, but there is no sign of any change in policy on one of the biggest population movements since World War Two.

"Bulgaria has nothing to reconsider," Deputy Foreign Minister Ivan Ganev told Reuters.

One demure Sofia woman who had spent years in the United States said: "We may have made mistakes. But frankly, I don't want the Muslims to come back."

Bulgaria insists the travellers were just taking advantage of a new open-door passport law and that many would return after seeing Turkey.

But Soviet, US and European observers agree that Sofia's 1984-85 campaign to Bulgarianise the names of the one-million minority is why the community decided to emigrate en masse.

Local support for ethnic Turks has come only from a small, struggling dissident movement in Bulgaria, where Soviet-style restructuring and openness has been slow to catch on.

Most of the brightly-dressed Bulgarians in Sofia shrug their shoulders when asked about the ethnic

Turks and say in a puzzled way: "They were richer than us. But let them go."

"Unfortunately, most people have no sympathy. It's because the government wants it like that," said Marian Zlatev, member of the independent Society for the Protection of Human Rights.

"What is happening now is terrible. It's in nobody's interest," she said in an interview. "They must have their names back. That's the only solution."

An illegal club for the support of perestroika and glasnost, which includes some officials, has also circulated a tract calling for the ethnic Turks to be given back their names, diplomats say.

Sirashimir Demitrov, director of Sofia's State Institute for Balkan Studies, said the minority was ethnically Turkic but has nothing to do with the Anatolian Turks of Turkey.

Like all officials, he repeated that the minority was Christianised and now has to go back to its roots. "We are now looking up by a six-part by-weekly television documentary."

But he added in rare note of Bulgarian regret: "If I had been asked about the name changes, I would have said, 'forever leads to good ends'."

This roots of the exodus lie deep in a history of Turkish-Bulgarian and Christian-Muslim struggles, and even a state affirmative action programme has not necessarily removed bitterness.

"My friend got straight A's at school but couldn't

get a place at university because of the contingency places for Muslims," said one Bulgarian.

The Bulgarian Communist Party workers daily newspaper has carried stories under headlines like "there is space for all under the sky of the motherland," but diplomats do not expect many ethnic Turks to rethink their departure after reading them.

Diplomats say a change in the names policy could come only from economic collapse or the fall of Bulgarian leader Todor Zhivkov, but add that this looks unlikely so far.

Most Turks lived in the east and the exodus has still not affected life much in the western city of Sofia, although heavy purchases by those departing has led to shortages of goods like sugar and preserves.

Nikola Koichev, the senior civil servant at the Planning Ministry, said bumper crops, labour brigades and mechanisation of agriculture would overcome years of bad harvests this year.

Last year's eight million-tonne grain harvest had already been exceeded, he said, as would last year's 90,000 tonnes of tobacco crop, key export.

The biggest disruptions had come in the tobacco and livestock sectors, he said. Diplomats said lack of qualified personnel could halt work at some farms and processing plants.

Rut Koichev said the problem was not worrying Bulgarian planners, adding: "Paradoxically, we find that productivity and quality have risen since their departure." (Sofia — Reuters)

Arafat keeps freedom of action

New Fatah team thinks like PLO chief

PLO leader Yasser Arafat, at a congress of his Fatah powerbase, consolidated his freedom of action and gained an expanded team of leaders close to his way of thinking, diplomatic and PLO sources said yesterday.

Fatah, the main group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation, closed its congress in Tunis yesterday after a week of heated debate on policy and personalities.

The 1,100 delegates from across the world gave him a mandate to follow through last year's PLO peace initiative based on an independent Palestinian state in co-existence with Israel.

They also voted for structural changes which enable the PLO and Fatah chairman to bring new blood into the movement's inner councils without pushing aside older colleagues who have dominated Fatah for decades, the sources said.

"My reading of the list of new leaders suggests that Arafat comes out stronger and it's the list that's important, not the political resolutions," one diplomat close to the PLO said.

"It was more about people and structures than about policy—these are the people who are going to determine the course of Fatah for the foreseeable

future," he added.

Arafat's aims at the congress were to ensure his men were elected and that delegates did not tie his hands on three key policy areas—armed struggle, contacts with Israelis and elections in the occupied territories, the sources said.

The nine new members on the 18-man central committee were, with one exception, identical to those on a list leaked by a delegate close to the leadership several days earlier suggesting that Arafat lobbying helped produce the right result.

An Arafat aide said the nine included only one member who could be described as a hardliner or an opponent of Arafat's concessions to Israel. He was apparently referring to Brigadier Mohammed Jihad, who was not on the original list of favourites.

Victory

"It's a victory for Arafat. This is the new blood he was looking for," the aide told Reuters.

The PLO leader also persuaded the Congress to adopt his idea of a small politburo, which will effectively take over from the central committee as the centre of power in Fatah.

"It's clearly a mechanism for bringing new people closer to the centre without giving the impression

that the others are losing status," one source said.

The membership of the Politburo, which the central committee will choose in the coming days and which may have as few as five or six members, will show who the real leaders will be.

On policy, Arafat apparently made concessions to delegates with reservations about his emphasis on diplomacy, but he did not commit himself to unpalatable actions, the sources said.

Israel and the pro-Israeli lobby in the United States are likely to target the Congress resolution advocating intensified "armed action and all forms of struggle," but diplomats and PLO leaders dismiss its importance.

"It's totally misleading to concentrate on this. Nobody in Fatah or the PLO has ever challenged the legitimacy of armed struggle and they have made that quite clear in their dialogue with the United States," a Western diplomat said.

On elections in the occupied territories, the Congress restated conditions demanded by the PLO executive committee for the past three months—Israeli withdrawal, UN supervision and an overall settlement leading to independence.

(Reuters — Tunis)

Iran on political tenterhooks

Power struggle moves to a climax

IRAN is gripped with political tension and religious fervour as the country's new President plans a government that is expected to purge hardliners from power.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani faces a possible weekend showdown with his leading hardline critic, Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, who could be sacked, analysts say.

They say Mohtashemi could use Ashura, the most emotional anniversary in the Shiite Muslim calendar, to whip up support against Rafsanjani's more pragmatic approach to international and domestic affairs.

The new government will be named sometime after parliament reconvenes next Tuesday.

"Rafsanjani must clip the wings of people like Mohtashemi, if he is to implement his policies," one Iranian journalist in Tehran told Reuters.

Another analyst, Shahram Chubin of Geneva's Graduate School of International Studies, said the power struggle could get so intense that Mohtashemi "stands the danger of becoming another (Mehdi) Hashemi."

Hashemi was a Revolutionary Guards official who plotted against Rafsanjani in the 1986 disclosure of his involvement in the secret arms-for-

hostages deals with the United States. He was subsequently convicted of murder and subversion and was executed in 1987.

Rafsanjani, 54, was elected President with enhanced executive powers in a landslide vote last month to succeed Ali Khamenei, the spiritual successor to Iran's late supreme leader Ayatollah Khomeini.

The new President has pledged a more open foreign policy and economic reconstruction after eight years of devastation suffered during the Gulf war with Iraq.

He said in his election campaign he would bring competent people into his cabinet regardless of their politics.

But his first foreign policy crisis and initiative—the Lebanon hostage affair in which he offered to help the United States—quickly ran into opposition from hardliners.

"Unless Mohtashemi can get people out on the street and make them believe that the revolution is being sold out, he can be pushed aside and Rafsanjani can deliver the hostages, if he has to," Chubin said.

Another hardliner in jeopardy is Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, whose job will disappear under the constitutional changes that give Rafsanjani

executive power as President.

Ashura, marking the seventh century martyrdom of the Prophet Mohammed's grandson Hussein, reaches a climax on Sunday with passionate processions of Shiites beating their bodies to draw blood.

A torrent of people will gather at the newly-erected shrine to Khomeini, whose uncompromising attitudes during his decade as Iran's fundamentalist leader bolstered the position of hardliners in the government before his death on June 3.

But Gulf-based Iranian political analysts said that in the political wrangling for top jobs, "Mohtashemi's political support is not as strong as it looks."

They added: "Mousavi's influence was largely based on Khomeini's support, and now Khomeini is gone."

Mohtashemi set up Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah (Party of God) when he was ambassador to Damascus in 1982.

He still maintains close links with Hezbollah, which is believed to hold a number of the 17 Western hostages missing in Lebanon.

In the end however, Tehran's control over Hezbollah is more dependent on its cash backing for the movement—estimated at up to \$3 million a month—than personal contacts with Iranian hardliners, analysts said.

US may pay

Ransom by any name

FREEDOM for eight American hostages in Lebanon may depend on whether the United States can repay millions of dollars in Iranian assets without it appearing to be ransom money.

The United States froze Iranian assets in 1979 when the Shah of Iran was toppled. Some of the money has been returned and the remainder is being negotiated by a tribunal in The Hague.

Iran says if Washington returns the money it would use its influence to persuade pro-Iran factions in Lebanon to free the hostages. But the United States says such a payment would look too much like a ransom.

Some analysts say US diplomats should reach an agreement that would free the captives and repay Iran but would not appear as an outright money-for-hostages swap.

Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director Stansfield Turner says it could be done in the same way former President Ronald Reagan persuaded Israel to trade 700 Shiite prisoners for 39 Americans on a hijacked airliner in June 1985.

"The timing was set off a couple of months so it didn't appear too obvious, but it was a deal no matter how you cut it," he said.

President George Bush has let it be known that he would like better relations with Iran, but he will not discuss anything that could be interpreted as trading money for hostages.

The American people appear to have mixed feelings.

A Time magazine poll this week said 70 per cent of Americans were against paying a ransom for the hostages, but 58 per cent said the United States should negotiate with Iran for their release.

Last year France was in a similar position. Two weeks after France's last three hostages were released in Beirut on May 4, 1985, Paris said it would settle the outstanding hostage issue with a \$1 billion loan during the Shah's rule.

Payoff

Richard Murphy, who was Ronald Reagan's assistant Secretary of State for Middle Eastern affairs, said the French came close to appearing to be paying for their captives.

"We don't want to do that. We want to encourage more hostages to be released," he said. "But they're never going to get it settled by linking it to the hostages," he said.

Iran expert Shireen Hunter of the Washington Centre for Strategic and International Studies says Iran should believe Bush when he says Iran will benefit if it works to free the hostages.

"The Iranians are going to want some assurances and some inducements to meet all the political capital they have in Lebanon and do their best in a serious way to help us get our hostages."

But obviously, he said, to settle the hostage issue in the United States, we have to release the assets first and then see if Iran will help us get our people out. It has to be some kind of parallel move in that direction without making any connection.

The Iran-United States Claims Tribunal has been working on unfreezing the assets for about seven years. Iran claims it is still owed \$12 billion but the Washington's estimate is in the millions of dollars.

Dan Levitt, a New York attorney representing Iran, said that at its present pace the court still has two or three years of work ahead. Part of the problem involves depositing Iran put down for military purchases that were never delivered.

An Arab diplomat says the United States might as well pay off the assets since it is going to do so eventually.

"What is the United States going to do with the assets, wait for the Shah to come back? I'm not suggesting negotiating with terrorists. But if paying this amount of money will get the hostages out for sure, then I see nothing wrong with reaching a kind of agreement without making it look like a payoff." (Reuters — Washington).

Quote me

"I was deeply moved when I found out this woman wanted to rescue her babies from the concentration camp of the frozen embryos. Geneticist Jerome LeJeune, working at the divorce trial focusing on custody of seven frozen embryos."

"I feel like a criminal bringing a child into this crazy world." Samia Makdisi, after giving birth to a baby girl at Rijk Hospital just a few hundred metres from Ben's Green Line.

"Britain is the mother of the Commonwealth and in a family because you have a family feud doesn't mean you then say your mother isn't your mother." Nigerian Foreign Minister Major-General Ike Nwanchukwu said in a news conference.

"He had a lot of underest. The car is not so important yet and there still problems with the tyres. We can't find the right grip on the front and back set at the same time, but I'm no pessimist for Sunday." Alain Prost and Alain Comandini in practice for the Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix yesterday.

"I believe I can run a 9.6." Ben Johnson said to Bill newspaper as he hopes to make his comeback at meet on Sept 25, 1990, the day his suspension from international competition expires.

"While I am of course aware of the various opinions emanating from the US side in regard to Japan's distribution system, the distribution systems of the United States and Japan differ as the countries themselves differ. Japan must speak its mind." Taro Nakayama, Japanese foreign minister said about the trade friction between Japan and United States.

"This intervention was a violation of the inalienable right of every nation to self-determination and its natural striving for democracy, freedom and the respect of human rights." — Poland's Senate said as it condemned the 1986 Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.

"We're still very hopeful, but unfortunately the past shortly after midnight didn't produce any signal. We had a pretty good look angle but not nearly as good as earlier."

— Thomas Pike of the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said during a search for the missing Air India 747. US Representative Mickey Leland.

MIDEAST

Soviet diplomat for better ties with Gulf

MOSCOW, Aug 11, (KUNA): A career Soviet diplomat suggested today that the Kremlin should accord greater importance to views of the Arabian Gulf countries when Moscow is drawing policies related to the Gulf region.

Moscow should account for the views of the Gulf states by initiating direct communications, a deed that would ensure better reaction to Soviet moves, wrote Victor Polyakov, second

secretary at the Soviet embassy in Kuwait, in the monthly Soviet magazine "International Affairs."

Polyakov underlined the need for dialogue with "our partners in the Gulf region" to pinpoint areas of agreement on Soviet initiatives to turn the region into an area of peace under multilateral accords that also seek to build trust.

According to international affairs, a political publication, record shows that

the Gulf states tend to receive super-power surprise initiatives with caution and scepticism.

The diplomat added that the Arab Gulf countries have their own vision of regional security based on national interest taking into account religious and psychological factors.

Polyakov stressed that it is the natural right of the Gulf states to draw their own understanding of regional

security, and added that the Soviet Union should take account of the local notions of security when formulating its own initiative on the Gulf region.

The magazine said the Gulf Co-operation Council countries declaration that they are pursuing "self reliance" in defence of the Gulf region requires careful approach from any foreign power that seeks to interfere in the region under any pretext.

Polyakov noted that the Gulf states being part of the colonial British Empire, are seeking balanced political ties with Washington and Moscow.

The magazine said the Gulf countries including Iran and Iraq prefer national security shield for their territory, air space and territorial waters and believe that responsibility for securing sea lanes in the Gulf lies with the international community.

An official Iraqi newspaper, referring to Soviet military assistance to Iran, warned yesterday that Tehran might restart the Gulf war.

"Do the rulers in Tehran intend to launch a new aggression, particularly since they are not facing any real pressure from the big powers to implement UN Security Council (peace) Resolution 598?" Al Thawra daily asked.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Soviet TV crew
OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 11, (AP): A Soviet television crew filming here for the first time in more than 20 years toured the occupied West Bank with an Israeli Army patrol despite the lack of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The crew, led by correspondent Yevgeny Kiselev, was scheduled to interview top leaders including Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Finance Minister Shimon Peres before their two week visit ends on Aug 16.

The Soviet Union severed diplomatic relations with Israel as a show of solidarity with Arab nations following the 1967 Middle East war.

Arms supply
ABU DHABI, Aug 11, (KUNA): The Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea has accused the Soviet Union of making big arms deliveries to Ethiopia in preparation for a massive Ethiopian military onslaught on Eritrean forces.

A communique issued by the front's office here said the Soviet Union, despite proclaiming a desire for peace in the Horn of Africa region, has stepped up its military support to the Ethiopian government.

It added that big quantities of Soviet arm supplies are being unloaded at Ethiopian-occupied Eritrean ports.

Disabled Iranian
AMSTERDAM, Aug 11, (Reuters): A disabled Iranian who set off on a long journey home in his wheelchair was stopped by Dutch police when he tried to enter a busy motorway outside the Hague.

The 30-year-old Iranian could not speak Dutch, but he indicated on a map that he was heading for Iran via Belgium, West Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Turkey.

After being warned that wheelchairs were not allowed on Dutch motorways, the Iranian packed his wheelchair into a friend's van and drove off, police said.

Chinese visit
NICOSIA, Cyprus, Aug 11, (AP): Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati met with the Chinese ambassador in Tehran yesterday to discuss the counterpart's forthcoming visit to Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, said Velayati expressed his country's readiness to expand ties with the communist state.

He also said by China's Foreign Minister, Qiao Qichen, will take place in early October, according to IRNA.

China was one of Iran's major arms suppliers during the 8-year war with Iraq.

Complications
TUNIS, Aug 11, (Reuters): Former Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, who had a prostate operation three weeks ago, has remained in hospital because of complications, medical sources said yesterday.

Bourguiba, who celebrated his 86th birthday in Tunis's Charles Nicolle Hospital on August 3, is suffering from urine retention because of a weak bladder, they said.

French physician Daniel Beuron, who performed the operation on July 19, examined Bourguiba again on Tuesday and Wednesday and then flew back to France, they added.

No medical bulletin has been issued.

Khan sentenced
KHARTOUM, Sudan, Aug 11, (AP): A military court sentenced a foreign national to ten years in prison for illegal possession of \$3,200 and another five years for attempting to bribe a police officer, an armed forces publication said yesterday.

Al-Ghawi Al-Musallaha, the armed forces daily paper, said the same court also handed a Sudanese man a three year jail sentence for attempting to smoke hashish in public.

Mubarak meets
ALEXANDRIA, Egypt, Aug 11, (AP): A ranking member of the US Senate budget committee met yesterday with President Hosni Mubarak and praised his efforts toward reforming Egypt's economy.

Sen. Pete V. Domenici, a New Mexico Republican, told reporters he and Mubarak discussed international affairs and bilateral relations, focusing on the economic situation in Egypt.

"I generally congratulate the president for Egypt's stride in the positive movement in growth and adding to the economic base, adding jobs... with the hope that this will continue," Domenici said.

Negotiations
PARIS, Aug 11, (KUNA): Former Algerian leader, Ahmad Bin Bella was in the centre of negotiations between the Iranian government and the "Iranian Democratic Kurdish Party," it was revealed here yesterday.

Under a column of confidential news, the "Evenement du Jeudi" weekly said Bin Bella was serving as an intermediary between Tehran and the Kurdish Party of Ahmad Ghassemlou to find grounds of conciliation between the two parties.

Jailed Briton's mother dies

LONDON, Aug 11, (Reuters): The mother of Roger Cooper, a Briton jailed in Iran on spying charges, died yesterday, Britain's national news agency reported.

The Press Association said Rosalind Cooper died in a London nursing home at the age of 95.

Prospects for his release were dented last March when Iran severed diplomatic relations with Britain and Muslim fury over British author Salman Rushdie's novel "The Satanic Verses."

Meanwhile, Cooper, jailed in Tehran declared Iran's late revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Khomeini, to be an accomplished poet after analysing one of his poems, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported yesterday.

Cooper, translated the poem, titled "Awakening" — one of a dozen by Khomeini published after his death on June 3.

IRNA quoted his critique, published in the English language "Jehan Times," as saying: "The skill with which the author has handled the rhythms of the 14-line ghazal with its technically difficult quantitative metre... reveals a sophisticated literary talent."

"Since the overall quality of this ghazal is high we must assume that the imam (Khomeini) was an accomplished poet and that this was not a flash in the pan."

Cooper's arrest in Iran in 1978 for alleged espionage was a major factor in the Islamic Revolution and speaks fluent Farsi. He was working for the Gulf-based US oil firm McDermott when he was arrested.

The Tehran Times said Cooper's critique "reached us after slicing by the prison censor at Evim, where the author is now incarcerated, or by some other on the way."

Iran's Intelligence Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahi said in February Cooper was jailed in November 1985 had been given a "heavy sentence" but the judiciary was still mulling a final judgement.

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Afghanistan to get Soviet fighter jets

Rocket attack kills nine

KABUL, Aug 11, (Agencies): The Soviet Union is to supply Afghanistan's Air Force with top-line MiG-29 fighter planes, a senior Afghan military official said yesterday.

If confirmed, delivery of the planes, which Kabul could use in its battle against US- and Pakistan-backed mujahideen rebels, would greatly boost Afghan air power and diplomats here said the United States would be sure to view it negatively.

General Abdul Haq Ulumi, a member of the Afghan Supreme Military Council and the armed forces representative on the ruling party's central committee, told journalists that contracts for MiG-29s and SU-27 all-weather ground attack fighters had been completed and deliveries should begin soon.

"These are aircraft which are to defend Afghanistan in the face of a possible Pakistani air attack," Ulumi said.

Pakistan has been used as a conduit of aid to rebels fighting to overthrow the Kabul government.

Ulumi refused to say how many aircraft were promised.

Soviet Ambassador Yuli M. Vorontsov told Western journalists in June that the Soviet Union was ready to accept an Afghan government request for MiG-29s and Sukhois if there was an escalation of fighting and border violations in the 10-year-old Afghan civil war.

A US official was quoted by the Washington Post as saying at that time that if the Soviet Union supplied the equipment, it would raise serious questions about "Soviet interest in improved relations with the United States."

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's government-controlled radio reported another rocket barrage on Kabul yesterday this one killing nine people and injuring 16.

Radio Kabul, in a broadcast monitored in Islamabad, charged that Muslim rebels battered Kabul with 141 rockets in the past week, killing 29 people and injuring 97.

The radio blamed yesterday's rocket attack on "the opposition" helped by their Pakistani masters and their masters across the ocean," meaning the United States.

The president of the Afghan rebels' self-proclaimed government yesterday said his own foreign minister has used US military support to kill other rebels and Afghan civilians.

It was the latest in an escalating war of words that has threatened the unity of the insurgents who are fighting to topple the Soviet-backed communist government in Kabul.

Sibghatullah Mojaddidi, president of the rebel government-in-exile, said that his administration would have a better chance of survival without hard-line rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who serves as foreign minister.

"He (Hekmatyar) considers himself the hero of the jihad (holy war) but in fact he's a killer," Mojaddidi said in an interview.

Rebels under Hekmatyar's command are accused of killing 32 rebels of a rival group in northern Afghanistan on July 9. He has admitted his men's involvement in killing some commanders of the Jamiat-e-Islami rebel party, but claimed they were provoked.

Meanwhile, the Soviet-backed Afghan government has denied any involvement in the slaying of rebel commander Abdul Haji Latif, the "Lion of Kandahar" who was poisoned earlier this week by an unidentified assassin.

Spokesmen for the seven-group rebel alliance based in Pakistan have accused Najibullah's government of involvement in Latif's Monday death in the countryside near the government-held eastern city of Kandahar.

But government spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani told reporters at a briefing late yesterday that Kabul had no hand in killing Latif, 71.

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Civil defence workers evacuate a man killed in Muslim west Beirut by the fierce shelling on Thursday in the savage artillery bombardment between Syrian and Christian forces across Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

More trouble for Beirut

BEIRUT, Aug 11, (Reuters): It is not the end of Lebanon's 14-year civil war, nor even the beginning of the end.

On the contrary, diplomats in Beirut, torn by five months of artillery attacks, expect the ordeal to intensify.

The fate of 17 Westerners believed held hostage in Lebanon by pro-Iranian kidnappers could play a major role in a civil war flare-up, the diplomats believe.

Western hopes that Syria might help free the hostages may give Damascus greater confidence in facing the challenge to its authority in Lebanon, where it backs mainly-Muslim forces against Christian-led troops, said Sarkis Naoum, an independent Lebanese commentator.

More than 500 Lebanese, mostly civilians, have been killed since March 14 when Christian Army chief Major-General Michel Aoun fired the first salvo in what he calls a war of liberation against the Syrians.

Syrian troops in Lebanon for more than a decade, replied in kind. Beirut, divided into a Muslim west and Christian east, have since fled or spend their nights quaking in shelters to escape the shells.

Syria's troops in Lebanon, estimated by diplomats to number around 33,000, are more powerful than Aoun's forces. But Aoun is gambling that international opinion will stop Damascus from using its full strength, the diplomats said.

His strategy was to internationalise the Lebanese conflict by inviting the Arab League and the UN Security Council to play a role.

A League peace mission has run into a dead end, but Aoun remains hopeful.

Diplomats likened the diminutive soldier to a small boy preparing to kick a bully in the shins and counting on authority intervening to stop the bigger child thrashing his tormentor.

They said Aoun might seize the initiative by breaking through the ring of Syrian troops and their militia allies blockading the Christian fiefdom, which embraces part of the capital and mountains to the north and east.

Aoun has strengthened the reputation and morale of his Army of about 15,000 and thinks time is on his side, a Western

analyst said.

Even a limited thrust could cut the Syrian supply route through the Shouf hills and threaten the airport south of Beirut.

Aoun hoped either to invite a Syrian pre-emptive attack or reduce its reputation as a

regional power by forcing it to accept a defeat, a diplomat said.

There is little hope of political compromise, a West European diplomat said.

Aoun wants a ceasefire, a Syrian withdrawal, elections and then talks on political reforms.

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Arabian date

President George Bush downed two sesame-covered dates and drank Arabian coffee, watched a ceremonial sword dance and accepted a bouquet of roses from two children dressed in white robes Wednesday as he toured a cultural exhibit sponsored by Saudi Arabia.

Bush was escorted through the visit, in Washington's Convention Centre, by Saudi Ambassador Prince Bandar bin Sultan.

Although the free monthlong exhibit, "Saudi Arabia Yesterday and Today," is open to the public, it was closed during Bush's tour.

Picture shows Bush and Prince Bandar taste some dates. (Reuters wirephoto)

Israelis nab suspected Lebanese drug runner

Egypt sentences wanted kingpin in absentia to death

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug 11, (AP): A special cross-border police unit nabbed a Lebanese described by authorities today as a drug-running kingpin and whisked him to Israel in an overt display of this country's police activity in southern Lebanon, Israeli reports said.

Last night's operation came exactly two weeks after Israeli troops abducted a Shiite Muslim

clergyman in south Lebanon and helicoptered him to Israel.

The capture of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid, suspected of being a leader in the Iranian-backed extremist Hezbollah militia, was an attempt to pressure the Shiites into a prisoner exchange involving three Israeli soldiers Hezbollah is believed to be holding.

The capture of Mohammed Berro, however, appeared unrelated to Obeid's kidnapping.

Department chief Rami Zutler of the severe crimes division presented Berro to a Tel Aviv magistrates court today as "one of the biggest" drug dealers in Lebanon, the national news agency Ium said.

The court remanded Berro in custody for 15 days, it said.

When asked by the judge how Berro, 46, had arrived from Lebanon in Israel, Zutler replied

that the police had "transferred" him, and if the suspect wished to protect the legality of the arrest, "he can appeal to the Supreme Court," Ium reported.

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Security sources in Lebanon said Israeli civilian police have been operating in Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon for at least six months.

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Fatah softens tone on struggle

TUNIS, Aug. 11. (Agencies): The Fatah today issued a new statement on its Tunis congress, softening calls for armed struggle which had been criticised by Israel and the United States.

The congress affirmed (Fatah's) commitment to the principles of international legitimacy which give our people the right to practise all forms of struggle, including armed struggle, to confront the hateful Israeli occupation," said the statement, a summary of this week's congress.

A political programme endorsed by the congress and released on Tuesday said Fatah would continue to "intensify and escalate armed action and all forms of struggle to eliminate the Zionist Israeli occupation of our occupied Palestinian land."

Israel and the United States criticised the wording of the programme, saying it raised questions about whether Fatah was sincere in its desire for peace.

US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said of the programme: "This statement's derogatory rhetoric on Israel, its tone of confrontation and violence, and its preference for unrealistic principles... are unhelpful."

In occupied Jerusalem Foreign Ministry officials said the resolutions were a step backwards and unacceptable even to dovish members of the Israeli cabinet.

A Fatah central committee member, Khaled Al Hassan, rejected the US criticism today as nonsensical and indicative of continuing US bias towards Israel.

The final statement, which covers internal structural changes in Fatah as well as policy, also drops all use of the word Zionist — frequent in the political programme — in favour of plain "Israeli."

It goes further than the political programme in embracing PLO leader Yasser Arafat's diplomatic offensive, saying: "The congress affirms its commitment to the Palestinian peace initiative endorsed by the Palestine National Council (PNC)."

The PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, last year put forward a plan based on an independent Palestinian state living in peace alongside Israel in its pre-1967 borders.

The Fatah programme merely gave the movement's central committee a mandate to put the PNC resolutions into effect.

The new statement, unlike the programme, does not refer to a committee which would try to prevent Jewish emigration to Israel.

Israel said this idea touched a sensitive nerve because it indicated "Fatah simply doesn't want Jews to be around, to be in Israel."

The new statement elaborates on the dialogue between the US and the Palestine Liberation Organisation, saying the congress was surprised at how slowly it was moving and how it lacked "political comprehensiveness."

The PLO wants the dialogue to tackle major principles like self-determination and the nature of a final Middle East settlement while Washington wants to talk about practical steps towards direct talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

Struggle honoured

DAMMAM, Aug. 11. (Reuters): Umm Jihad, widow of assassinated Fatah military commander Abu Jihad, says she was voted onto Fatah's central committee not because she is a woman but because of her history of struggle for Palestinians.

Intissar Al Wazir, 47, better known as Umm Jihad, became the first woman to reach the top rank of the Palestinian leadership with her election this week to the ruling body of Fatah, the major group in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

She told the Saudi Al Madina newspaper in an interview published today this reflected the confidence Fatah members had in her involvement in the movement since the first cells were formed in the late 1950s.

"My presence inside the central committee represents a break through the unintentional blockade imposed on Palestinian women against joining such ranks."

Play makes fun of Mideast conflict

Theatregoers laugh all the way

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 11. (Reuters): When the San Francisco mime troupe decides to spoof a hot international topic, no subject is too serious for its satire — not even Israeli-Palestinian strife.

The slightly inaccurately named mime troupe is now performing a musical comedy about the Middle East that has theatregoers laughing all the way to the tragic ending.

Mime troupe head writer Joan Holden, working with Israeli director Sinai Peter, Palestinian-American comedienne Emily Shihadeh and other Jewish and Arab writers, has created "Seeing Double."

The musical is a mistaken-identity farce that makes fun of the various factions in Israel and advocates a two-state solution to strife between the two sides.

In the troupe's production, Salim Razali, a Palestinian American, journeys to Israel

with a deed proving that his West Bank cousins own land on which their house sits, hoping to stop an Israeli plan to demolish the house and evict the Razalis.

At the same time, David Goldberg, a Jewish American, is bringing his militant settler relatives a computer diagram supporting their Biblical claim to the same land. A black actor, Michael Sullivan, plays both Salim and David.

Salim and David are mistaken for each other, with Salim ending up with the Israeli Goldberg and David being taken in by the Razalis. As each sees the conflict from the point of view of the other side, the audience is also taken on a political tour of Israel.

"There are so many different kinds of Jew-dudes here," a frustrated Salim tells the audience after meeting a Jewish radical from California who hates Jews, a Jewish soldier who refuses an order to blow up the Razalis' house, militant Jewish settlers from Brooklyn and idealistic kibbutzniks.

Along with its labyrinthine picture of Middle East politics, the play's message that everyone is basically the same is conveyed by the troupe's multi-racial actors playing several roles each.

One of them, Japanese-American actress Keiko Shimomoto plays the radical from Berkeley, Salim's grandmother, a militant Jewish settler's daughter and a Palestinian boy arrested for throwing stones at troops.

The playwrights were challenged to balance their dual roles as comedy writers and portrayers of their people's respective points of views.

The Arab and Jewish authors agreed the play could not have been written before the Palestine Liberation Organisation's peace overtures last year, a move that advanced the idea of a two-state solution.

They also agreed that the play had to be a comedy, Peter said. The mime troupe — which has satirised everything from apartheid to corporate greed — was a perfect vehicle for such a musical.

After 28 years of performing its spirited political comedies free in city parks, the mime troupe received national acclaim in 1987 when it won a Tony Award, Broadway's equivalent of the Hollywood Oscars.

Peter said the troupe's comedy touch was appropriate for tackling the Middle East conundrum.

"When a hero takes a fall on the stage, we (an audience) do two things," he said. "First, we laugh because it's very funny the way he falls and, second, we begin examining why he fell."

After agreeing on the basic idea for the play, the writers discovered they had many disagreements. "We had many



Michael Sullivan (right) plays Salim Razali, a Palestinian American visiting relatives in the West Bank and Eric Mill plays Amnon, an Israeli reservist in the San Francisco Mime Troupe production of Seeing Double. (Reuters wirephoto)

screaming arguments," said Holden. Peter said each of the writers

wrote jokes from his own tradition. The Jewish playwrights wrote lines for the Jewish characters, and the Palestinian and Arab-American authors were responsible for their characters.

Pakistan may mediate crisis

(Continued from Page 1)

rebuild ties with the West in order to secure funds and technology to help boost the flagging economy.

But the leading hardliner in the hierarchy, Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, has shown his opposition to any softening of Iran's position on the hostages, urging Shiite militants to remain poised to strike against the US.

The 16 Western hostages are believed held by Shiite Muslim extremist groups under the umbrella of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah.

The unnamed aide was quoted as saying Iran was reacting to a report that US President Bush had offered to release the Iranian assets, frozen after militants seized the American embassy in Tehran in 1979, in return for the hostages' freedom.

"It's really strange. First the US offers an asset for hostages deal and then the spokesman of the White House says that his country is not ready to pay ransom," he was quoted as saying.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Monday that the US was not willing to link the Iranian assets to the hostages' release.

The Tehran Times editorial quoted Rafsanjani's aide as adding: "What Iran meant was that the move to unfreeze the Iranian assets would have been taken in Iran as a goodwill gesture on behalf of the US."

"It's a clear policy of the Islamic Republic not to pay or receive ransom... what Iran has said more than once is that Tehran is ready to co-operate... on humanitarian grounds."

Bush told reporters Wednesday he was willing "to talk and to exercise every diplomatic channel I can" to free the American captives but ruled out "trading off for hostages."

There was no comment on the US. A Shiite Muslim official in Beirut said the kidnappers of Joseph Cicippio have called off a threat to kill the American because of stepped up diplomacy in the region.

Cicippio is among 16 foreigners, including eight Americans, widely believed held in Beirut's southern suburbs or around the ancient city of Baalbek in eastern Lebanon, a region controlled by pro-Iranian Lebanese Muslim fundamentalists and Syrians.

"The recent threats by the captors of Cicippio against his life have been cancelled because of intensive diplomatic contacts and activity that involved regional states," the official said.

The hostage crisis is expected to be the main topic of scheduled talks in Damascus, early next week between Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Syrian officials and representatives of Lebanese Muslim militia groups, he said.

Senior leaders of Hezbollah and the Syrian-backed Lebanese Shiite group, Amal, which controls much of southern Lebanon, were to take part in the discussions, the official said.

"We could witness a development in the hostage issue after these talks but for the time being, none of the Western hostages is under danger to be killed," the official said.

Assessing the developments in the hostage dilemma, White House Press Secretary Marlin



Hezbollah leaders

Hezbollah leaders during a rally in Beirut's suburbs marking the Ashoura. (Reuters wirephoto)



Women driving hostage buses: Armed women, dressed in ankle-length black chadors, have been driving the Western hostages to new locations at night by bus, a Beirut weekly said on Thursday.

The weekly Ash-Shiraa, quoting unnamed "non-Arab" sources, said the kidnappers "have been using a group of women to transfer the captives to new locations in Beirut and the southern suburbs under the dictates of security conditions."

The weekly said the hostages were transported in "medium-sized buses, equipped with every comfort — beds and chairs, as if for tourists, they were curtained so no one could see anything inside (the bus)."

Ash-Shiraa said the "women kidnappers" moved the hostages at night and were equipped with automatic weapons to be used only under "utmost necessity."

The report could not be independently confirmed. (AP)

Captain pays tribute to Higgins: The former commander of the US Navy vessel that shot down an Iranian airliner last year paid tribute Wednesday to Marine Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, who was taken hostage in Lebanon and is believed dead.

Capt. Will C. Rogers, during a dedication ceremony for a monument to the USS Vincennes, called Higgins and his wife, Robin, "comrades in arms, American heroes and friends who exemplify the Marine corps motto, 'always faithful,' whatever the cost."

"Those crisis, which recently (were) demonstrated, can be brutally harsh," Rogers said at the dedication of the USS Vincennes memorial monument near the banks of the Wabash river.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Higgins acknowledged "a virtual certainty" that her husband had been killed by his captors. (AP)

Israel bars Lebanese: Israel yesterday barred Lebanese from crossing the border into its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon where thousands have sought refuge from the fighting in Beirut.

An Israeli military spokesman said the border was shut because of the Shiite Muslim holy day of Ashura and would be reopened once observances were over.

But military sources said the crossings from Lebanon into the Israeli security zone were closed as a result of the suicide car bomb attack last Wednesday in which five Israeli soldiers were wounded.

The Shiite group Hezbollah claimed responsibility for the car bomb in which the driver of the car was killed. (Reuters)

Fitzwater said changes in US relations with Syria are prompting new optimism that a solution can be found to the 15 years of civil strife in Lebanon.

"There seems to be a feeling any long-term solution to the hostage problem is going to require a chance in the whole situation in Lebanon," Fitzwater said on Wednesday.

"We're seeing a series of new relationships developing in the Middle East," Fitzwater said. "It's unclear at this point what kind of dialogue may take place. 'In this case, we're seeking

US carrier arrives off Iran: A US naval task force has arrived in the Arabian Sea near Iran nearly two weeks after Lebanon's hostage crisis began, but a Navy spokesman on Thursday said their presence was routine.

The carrier USS America, which sailed from Singapore after pro-Iranian guerrillas said they killed a US hostage, was lying with escorts off the coast of Oman, military sources outside the Gulf said.

The move, which accompanied a Navy buildup in the Mediterranean near Lebanon, sparked speculation that President George Bush might order an attack on Iran in retaliation.

But a US Navy spokesman in the Gulf said "the US Navy for years has had a carrier task group operating in the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea area. It is not in relation to anything going on right now." (Reuters)

Dole predicts military action: President George Bush will order a military strike if another American hostage is killed, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole predicted Wednesday.

"If another American is killed, then I think you're going to see a military response from President Bush. I can't tell you what it might be," Dole said during a visit to Kansas State University.

"Now you're seeing President Bush and a lot of other leaders of other countries using all the diplomatic pressures and going through all the diplomatic channels, including Syria, including Iran, including the Soviet Union," Dole said.

"And that's going to continue. I think the pressure's going to build. We don't want to lose the momentum if there's any chance now to free all the hostages," Dole said. (UPI)

Plans to evacuate UK hostages: Britain has laid elaborate contingency plans to evacuate the four British hostages held in Lebanon by helicopter to a British base in Cyprus, if diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis yield results, according to a report here Thursday.

The Times newspaper quoted Western sources in Nicosia as saying Britain hopes to bring out its captives by air for an initial debriefing and medical treatment at the Princess Mary Royal Air Force Hospital in Cyprus.

Britain's plan would depend on the hostages first being moved across Beirut's Green Line to an American helicopter pad in east Beirut, the paper added.

The scheme would work only if Syria plays a marginal role in securing any hostage release, it pointed out. (KUNA)

another American, Marine Lt Col William Higgins, claimed to have hanged him last Monday, triggering a new flurry of interest in the hostage issue.

The magazine Ash Shiraa said yesterday, "recent efforts to release the hostages following the death of Higgins faced stumbling blocks because of issues related to Lebanon, the Middle East and differences between Iranian leaders that emerged on how to deal with the issue."

"These talks are continuing, but at a slower pace," said the magazine.

Israel doubles detention time

Two Palestinians killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Aug. 11. (Agencies): The Army today doubled the period from six months to one year the initial administrative detention in a renewed effort to quell the 20-month Palestinian uprising.

The Army said the step was made "for security reasons and in accordance with the situation existing in the (occupied) territories."

The orders were issued by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin and were approved by Justice Minister Avigdor

Meridor, it said.

Israel adopted the administrative detention procedure from 1945 emergency regulations used by the British during their rule of mandatory Palestine, often against Jews fighting for the creation of a Jewish state.

The United States and human rights organisations have condemned the procedure as a violation of due process.

Under the British regulations, people could be jailed for six months without charge and had to be released after that period on a basis during the rebellion in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In numerous cases, detention was extended to more than one six-month term, but Army officials headed by Rabin have demanded a freer hand, complaining that judicial procedures complicated their fight against the revolt.

The military said today generals in charge of the West Bank and Gaza "signed orders according to which it is possible to issue or prolong administrative detention in the territories to the period of one year instead of six months."

The Army command added that a person detained without trial for over six months "will be entitled to bring his case to a judge who deals with both military and civilian matters at least once in six months."

The US State Department report of human rights, released last February, criticised the procedure and disputed Israeli claims by saying that in many cases, Palestinians were detained for political reasons or non-violent activities.

The report also said that some 20 per cent of detention orders have been renewed.

Israeli troops shot and killed a man and a child in a Palestinian refugee camp on Wednesday during protests marking the end of 20 months of Arab rebellion against Israeli occupation.

A third Palestinian was killed in the West Bank city of Hebron, and Arab reports blamed the death on Israeli settlers.

Officials at Shifa Hospital in Gaza City said six-year-old Youssef Ghaz Salameh and 23-year-old Ziad Mohammed Barnat were shot to death during daylong clashes in the Gaza Strip's Shiati refugee camp.

Hospital officials said Salameh was shot in the heart and quoted the boy's family as saying a soldier on a rooftop had fired at him.

Barnat died later on gunshot wounds to the abdomen and chest, the officials said.

The Army said at least five Palestinians were wounded in the Gaza incidents.

Arab hospital reports said at least 19 Palestinians were wounded in Shati.

A nurse in Hebron said the body of 17-year-old Nidal Ibrahim Mesk was found on a major Hebron thoroughfare near the Ansar mosque. He had been shot twice in the head, he said.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met another Palestinian from the occupied territories in the past two weeks to promote his plan for elections, a spokesman said.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin received two cakes today for his 76th birthday but refused to leave his home to accept birthday wishes or questions from reporters.

Flanked by about 25 reporters and photographers, Shamir said Begin was in excellent condition. His actual birthday is tomorrow. (Picture shows hotel manager bringing two cakes to the home of Begin. (Reuters wirephoto))

UK Labour may back Palestine

LONDON, Aug. 11. (KUNA):

Demands for a Palestinian state and an immediate Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories will be considered by the British Labour Party at its annual conference in October, it was reported here today.

The conference will also debate calls for an international status for Jerusalem and an end to Israel's "iron fist policy" in the West Bank.

If passed the calls in the draft agenda of the conference would put pressure on Labour to adopt a considerably more pro-PLO position than envisaged by the main opposition party's policy review document.

Meanwhile, a motion from the Labour Zionist movement, Poale Zion, calls for "support for the Israeli Labour Party's hopes for direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians or a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation," it added.

Observers noted that there is now complete agreement between all political parties in the UK that the status quo in the occupied territories could not be sustained and that Israel should trade land for peace.



Begin is 76

Former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin received two cakes today for his 76th birthday but refused to leave his home to accept birthday wishes or questions from reporters.

Flanked by about 25 reporters and photographers, Shamir said Begin was in excellent condition. His actual birthday is tomorrow. (Picture shows hotel manager bringing two cakes to the home of Begin. (Reuters wirephoto))

Suit filed to stop federal wiretaps in deportation case

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 11. (Reuters): Civil rights groups filed suit on Wednesday in an effort to ensure the federal government stops what they claim is illegal surveillance of attorneys and defendants in a deportation case.

The Justice Department revealed in February that agents had tapped on telephone conversations involving seven Los Angeles-area Palestinians and a Kenyan charged with subversion

and visa violations.

But Peter Schey of the National Centre for immigrant rights said on Wednesday that government lawyers "have refused to confirm or deny that communications between attorneys and clients at this time are no longer the subject of surveillance."

The suit, which names Attorney-General Dick Thornburgh, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Immigration and Naturalisation Services as defendants, asks a federal court in Washington to order the surveillance to be halted and declared unconstitutional.

According to defence attorneys in the case, the surveillance violates the rights of the accused in criminal prosecutions. But the Justice Department said it was legal because the conversations were not privileged attorney-client discussions.

The eight defendants were arrested and jailed in 1987 for belonging to a Marxist faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, with a history of terrorism.

Although none of them has been charged with criminal acts they do face non-criminal subversion or visa violations charges and have been fighting deportation proceedings.

هكذا من الأهل

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Experts to discuss oil market on Monday

Co-operation among OPEC members vital

By M.C. Bose
Business editor

OIL prices could drop if OPEC does not adhere to the oil production quotas agreed by OPEC members, a leading Kuwaiti economist said, and commented that oil prices could easily range between \$20 to 25 barrels if OPEC members diligently produce in amounts which would be commensurate with actual market needs.

"To achieve this goal, an attitude of co-operation among all OPEC members is essential," Jassem Al Saadoun, head of Al Shall Consultancy Office said and added that a downward trend — even \$10 a barrel is a reality, if OPEC increases its oil output.

He went on to state that the oil pricing strategy has become an issue of commitment and adherence — and not a seasonal issue.

Speaking on the next OPEC meeting in September, Saadoun said that OPEC is to exert a little effort to stabilise oil prices — in view of the little fluctuations because of the seasonal change in demand.

Asked if Iraq, Iran and Kuwait by having additional production capacity could influence the

market, Saadoun said: "No country will like to play this role." He added that any country after exceeding its production quota begins to behave as if this is permanent and thus begins to defend any attempt to reduce it.

The economist added that for planning purposes, a country should exactly determine the size of its income to build its plans upon them as oil represents most of these countries' income, continual fluctuations from time to time are not desirable. Thus, planners will find it in their interests to realise a fixed and stable income.

Meanwhile, OPEC experts will meet in Vienna on Monday to discuss the oil market situation, a United Arab Emirates newspaper reported today.

The semi-official Al-Itihad, in a report from the Austrian capital, said the talks would focus on the recent slide in oil prices.

"They will prepare a detailed report to be presented to the price and long-term strategy committee at its meeting in Geneva in September," the paper said. It gave no source for its report.

The committee can call an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries if it deemed prices



Jassem Al Saadoun

have deviated too far from their target of \$18.

Oil prices have dropped in the past week and there have been warnings they could tumble if OPEC continued to pump above its self-imposed ceiling of 19.5 million barrels per day (BPD).

World oil prices surged yesterday, triggered by tight crude and heating on the New York Mercantile Exchange as buyers returned in force, according to UPI.

"Prices opened stronger in Europe and sort of carried on here," said Andrew Hall, president of the Greenwich, Connecticut, Philbro division of

Salomon Brothers Inc., a world trading house.

"Gas-oil (European heating oil) was relatively tight. ... German consumers were taking advantage of relatively low prices," Hall said.

Also, loadings of North Sea Brent crude cargoes at the Sullom Voe, Scotland, Terminal, which has been reported as having maintenance problems, are running less than 30 a month compared to the normal 40 a month, he said.

On the Merc, September-delivery West Texas Intermediate, the benchmark US crude, jumped 38 cents to end the day at \$18.39 a barrel, appearing to enter a new trading range with a Thursday low of \$18.38 and a high of \$18.70.

Analysis Wednesday said WTI appeared poised to move up in the short term after failing to slide to an expected lower level around \$16.50 a barrel.

On the US Gulf Coast, where crude is bought and sold for cash, WTI was quoted at \$18.50 a barrel, up 35 cents.

On the European spot market, Britain's widely-traded North Sea Brent crude was quoted at \$16.75 a barrel, up 35 cents.

The United Arab Emirates' Dubai light, the key Middle East

crude of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, gained 41 cents to \$14.98 a barrel.

An estimated 93,020 WTI contracts were traded on the Merc, near the 90,000 daily average and about double the 50,000 level of recent days.

"It was the best volume in about two weeks," said Ray Marchica of Cargill investor services in New York.

The fact the Merc failed in recent sessions to drive the WTI price below the psychologically important \$18 level — a factor some analysts say may have been due to fears of the hostage crisis threatening Middle East supplies — attracted buyers back into the market.

"It certainly attracted a great deal of technical buying when the price remained above \$18," said James Steel, energy analyst with Refco Inc. in New York.

The runup, he warned, "is not founded in fundamentals and the technical buying can evaporate."

He added, "the buying is completely overdone. I don't think demand is that strong and OPEC is still over-producing."

Steel agreed, however, the European market yesterday influenced US trading rather than the other way round.

Dollar surges

Gold sinks

LONDON, Aug 11, (Reuters): The dollar surged today, shrugging off concerted intervention by European and North American central banks, after new data showed US inflation on the wane but the American economy growing.

Financial markets had expected a boost from the July US producer price index, a measure of inflation at the wholesale level, and retail sales figures for the same month. In anticipation, the dollar jumped in early European trading.

When published, the figures showed an unexpected drop in producer prices for the second month running but an increase in retail sales.

Taken together they signified that "the soft landing looks more in sight," according to Midland Bank economists in London, referring to the aim of avoiding a recession in the United States without fueling inflation.

Within seconds of the figures being issued, the dollar dropped almost a penny and half a yen. But it quickly rebounded strongly jump more than four pence from Thursday's close.

The dollar smashed through a key "resistance level" of 1.93 marks and continued upwards, prompting central banks to join forces and intervene.

The US Federal Reserve led the move to sell dollars, followed by the Central Banks of West Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Switzerland, Canada, Austria, Belgium and Spain.

But their action could not break the dollar's momentum. It closed at 1.9385 marks, its highest level against the West German currency since the final week in June when European central banks last intervened in the markets, and 141.80 yen.

Intervention

The dollar had closed on Thursday at 1.8920 and 139.05.

Analysts said the intervention appeared to be designed to prevent the dollar settling much above 1.93 marks.

"The central banks made people a little more cautious but the long-term impact will be limited," said one dealer in Frankfurt.

Traders said they expected the dollar to continue to rise, with levels around 1.97 marks possible by the end of next week. "The intervention might have worked if the dollar had been overbought but that was not the case today," one said.

The US government's announcement that producer prices fell 0.4 per cent in July and retail sales rose 0.9 per cent also led Wall Street to early gains above its all-time closing high.

These, in turn, helped European shares firm, although the London Stock Exchange's gains were limited.

The 100-share FTSE index closed just off its session high at 2,354.2, up 6.9 points on the day but down on the post-crash of '87 closing high of 2,360.4 set on Wednesday.

As the dollar rose, gold dropped sharply and closed \$4 down at \$362.25 an ounce.

Oil imports up

WASHINGTON, Aug 11, (OPECNA): United States crude imports in the four weeks ending August 4, excluding Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) supplies, surged by 26.4 per cent to 6.39 million BPD, compared with the same period last year.

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), the nation's crude imports for the first six months of the year (excluding SPR) stood at 5.6 million BPD.

REQUIRED

Accounts Assistants

Minimum qualification: Degree in Commerce
Experience: Minimum 3 years in accounting.
Candidate with transferable residence may apply to:
The Personnel Dept.
P.O. Box 270, Safat
13003 Safat, Kuwait

Taiwan seeks oil processing deal

Shell, BP profits soar

TAIPEI, Aug 11, (Reuters): Taiwan, where the building of a refinery has been stalled by anti-pollution protests, wants to process 500,000 barrels of crude oil in Singapore, Japan or Hawaii, the state-owned Chinese Petroleum Corporation said yesterday.

It would be the first time Taiwan has processed crude oil, the company's supply division director, Chen En-li said.

He said Chinese Petroleum was already negotiating with Singapore oil refineries about the possible processing of a cargo of 500,000 barrels of crude from the Middle East.

"This will be on a trial basis and we will proceed to long-term contracts if the initial processing has good results," Chen said in an interview.

He said Chinese petroleum would also negotiate with refineries in Japan and Hawaii to find their processing terms and costs.

"We will not finalise contracts until we have extensive negotiations with refineries in these three places," he said.

The company's plans to build a refinery in the southern Taiwan city of Kaohsiung have been

stalled for three years by anti-pollution protests.

Taiwan's two refineries can process up to 430,000 barrels of crude and petroleum products per day, falling short of daily consumption of 500,000 barrels, another company official said.

Taiwan produces only one per cent of its oil needs and imports the rest from countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Indonesia, Malaysia, the United States and Canada.

In another development a surge in crude prices helped oil giants Royal Dutch-Shell and British Petroleum boost profits sharply in the first half of this year, the companies said yesterday.

Anglo-Dutch Shell said its half-year historic net income — calculated by valuing oil stocks on the basis of what they cost to acquire — rose to \$2.29 billion (\$3.73 billion) from \$1.46 billion (\$2.38 billion) in the first six months of 1988.

British Petroleum reported first-half historic cost net profits of £1.09 billion (\$1.78 billion), up from £620 million (\$1.01 billion). The two companies results were near the top end of stock

market analysts forecasts.

Both said their earnings were helped by the strength of the dollar, the currency in which most oil is traded on international markets.

BP said firm demand for crude oil and products, combined with more agreement in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on quotas, had generally kept North Sea crude prices above \$17 a barrel.

Shell cautioned that oil prices were likely to remain volatile this year as a number of producing countries were expected to increase their output capacity.

It said its North Sea production would rise after scheduled summer maintenance which had closed platforms. Its Brent North Sea oil pipeline reopened at the end of May, six weeks after a gas leak caused an explosion on the Cormorant Alpha platform.

BP said its oil production would fall in the second half of the year, reflecting lower output from major fields in Alaska and the North Sea. But this would be partly offset by increased gas production and sales.

BP announced a half-year dividend of 7.3 per cent (11.9 cents), compared with five pence (8.2 cents) a year earlier.

Buildings make better use of energy

IEA eyes office workplace

LONDON, Aug 11, (Reuters): Too many modern offices either waste energy or else try to save it the wrong way — and thus make the people who work there sick.

"It's not too hard to keep a building warm. You can make it virtually airtight. The hard thing is to keep it fresh," says Coes Hoedemaker, a researcher working with the West's energy watchdog, the International Energy Agency (IEA).

The IEA says government and commercial offices and shops account for 10.1 per cent of all energy used in major Western industrial nations — equal to the oil output of Saudi Arabia.

And the energy "burn" in this sector is rising almost twice as fast as in manufacturing, as the West moves from the era of smokestack industries to a computer-based information age.

Saving energy at the office, the IEA argues, is good for corporate balance sheets, taxpayers and the environment.

Hoedemaker heads an IEA-sponsored group called CADDET (the Centre for Analysis and Dissemination of Demonstrated Energy Tech-

nologies). Based at Sittard in the Netherlands, part of its assignment is to act as a clearing house for information on technologies that can mean that buildings make better use of energy.

Hoedemaker says that up-to-date lighting and boilers and, especially, improved monitoring are often the best solution in existing buildings. New ones still need better design.

Computerised control systems supervised by an expert energy manager are a favoured strategy, particularly in the United States, and offer fuel savings of up to about 20 per cent.

But it is one thing to install computer controls and an energy engineer in a single big building.

What, though, does a bank, retail chain or state agency do if it has branches scattered in main streets across the land?

Barclays, one of the "big four" British banks, reckons it was a pioneer in tackling that problem.

Linked by land line, he can see how hot or cold it is in each of them, how the thermostat is set or how the boiler is responding to its guidance.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Aug 11, (Reuters): The Australian share market closed sharply higher, kicked ahead by a late burst of buying.

The All Ordinaries index rose 13.6 to 1,694.9.

TOKYO: Share prices closed mixed in thin trade while those market players not off on summer holidays again snatched up blue-chip electrical stocks. The Nikkei index fell 6.84 to 34,712.96.

HONG KONG: Prices ended slightly higher after see-sawing through the day. Brokers expected narrow ranges to continue until fresh factors emerged. The Hang Seng index rose 4.71 to

2,613.39.

BOMBAY: The exchange was closed after tax officials raided the offices of brokers, disrupting the fixing of contango (carry-forward) charges for business done in the two weeks ending yesterday.

PARIS: Prices ended firmer but the prospect of a four-day close for holidays took the edge off a market buoyed this week by takeover activity.

ZURICH: Shares closed generally higher in very lively trading. Strong buying interest in chemical shares and their options triggered demand in other sectors.

Olympic Airways seeks \$28m loan

ATHENS, Greece, Aug 11, (AP): Olympic Airways is seeking a \$28 million loan to help it state-run national carrier out of deepening financial crisis and help chart its future course, the company's new management said.

Vassilis Filias, who was appointed Olympic's chairman in June, said yesterday that the airline had to increase present share capital of \$150 million by another \$750 million in order to get back on its feet.

He said that a loan of \$28 million would help the airline cope with a total deficit of \$562 million. He projected a \$156 million deficit for 1989.

Filias said Olympic's losses were due to bad management in the past, and a lack of marketing and strategic planning.

"Olympic had been left to its fate," Filias said. "There was no planning whatsoever. Not even in the short-term. Whatever was done was done on the spur of the moment and in a spirit of opportunism."

"Services to customers are inadequate. There are shortages of personnel in the front line of passenger relations. We get about 50 letters of protest a day," he emphasized.

"Filias said another problem was Olympic's ageing fleet.

"The company's 55 aircraft have an average age of 12 years, whereas the norm is an average age of 7.5 years," said Olympic managing director Lukas Grammatikos.

He charged that the previous administration neglected making investments when it should have.

Wage strike

BOMBAY, Aug 11, (Reuters): Business at banks all over India came to a halt today when more than 600,000 employees went on strike in a wage protest, union leaders said.

Indian rupees.....17.980
Sri Lankan rupees.....8.380
Pakistani rupees.....14.190
Bangladesh taka.....9.110
US dollar.....0.29655
Pound sterling.....48.300
Deutsche marks.....15685
UAE dirham.....08080
Japanese yen.....002142

Plans to set up commercial bank

KUWAIT, Aug 11, (KUNA): A commercial bank will be established, grouping Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, with a \$5 million capital, an official at Kuwait's Commerce and Industry Ministry said yesterday.

Assistant undersecretary for commercial affairs at the Commerce and Industry Ministry Rashed Al Roumi said in a statement published by a local daily, the Egyptian Public Authority for Investment decided to establish this bank along with the Kuwaiti Real Estate and Investment Group and Saudi Investment Resources Corporation as partners.

Al Roumi also confirmed the report published yesterday by the British Financial Times on this issue.

The Financial Times said the Kuwaiti Real Estate and Investment Group holds the lion's share in the bank's capital, where it will hold 49 per cent of the bank's shares, while the Saudi Corporation will hold 30 per cent and the Egyptian Public Authority for Investment 21 per cent.

The British paper also quoted the director-to-be of the bank Ahmed Foudah as saying that the bank's activities will be centered on bonds, group loans and share trading.

INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REUTERS FINANCIAL SERVICES

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

International Bond Highlights

LONDON: The one billion dir, four year equity warrant Eurobond for Asahi Breweries Ltd, reported from Tokyo earlier today has an indicated coupon of 4-1/8 pct, lead manager Nomura International Ltd said. Final terms will be set on August 17.

LONDON: The average rate of discount at today's 91-day (UK treasury bill tender rose to 13.3268 pct from 13.3002 pct last week. This week's 500 minis offer of bills met applications of 1.07 billion stg.

LONDON: Banque Nationale de Paris is issuing a 50 min dir Eurobond due August 3, 1994 fungible with an existing 250 min dir Eurobond launched July 13, lead manager BNP Capital Markets said. The new issue is priced at 101-3/4 pct.

Geneva: Abbey National treasury services PLC is raising 100 mln Swiss francs in 5-3/4 pct five-year notes priced at 101-3/8 pct, lead manager Deutsche Bank (Suisse) SA said.

LONDON: Australia and New Zealand banking group Ltd (ANZ) is issuing a 60 min New Zealand dir Eurobond due September 28, 1992 paying 13-1/4 pct and priced at 102 pct, lead manager Hambros Bank Ltd said.

BOMBAY

	PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHGFC	31	32	31.25	NAT ORG	--	--	--
ACC	245	255	254	GRASIM	113.50	112.50	114	NIPPON	39	39	39.50
ALEX CHEN	--	--	--	GSFC	157.50	160	167.50	NOCIL	950	980	960
ALIV NIS	--	--	--	GUJ ALK	72	71.50	73	ORRAY	16	15.75	15.50
ARI FAB	--	--	--	GUJ HEAVY	10.50	9.50	10.50	OSMAL AGRO	72	71.50	72
ASHOK LEY	65	62.50	65	HERO HONDA	19	18	19	PEICO	18.50	18	18.50
ASIA PAINT	192.50	190	200	HIND CIBA	800	810	845	PFIZER	59.50	59	60
ATLAS COP	35	35	35	HIND COCCA	110	110	111.25	PONDS	154	156.25	156.25
AUTO CORP	71	70	72.50	HIND LEVER	92.50	94	95	PREN AUTO	52	52	56
BAJAJ AUTO	326.25	336.25	357.50	HIND MOTOR	30	30.50	31.50	RANBAXY	77.50	75	80
BAR RAYON	532.50	533	550	HINDALCO	247.50	256.25	253.75	RAY WOOL	83.50	83	84
BK BOND	78	77	78	HINDRILCO	735	740	760	RECKITT	173.75	170	175
BLOM PLAST	--	--	--	HIND ORG	38	38	38.50	RELANCE	110	111.50	113
BON DYE	117	118.50	119	HIND RAYON	78.50	79	79.50	SESA GDA	37	39	41
BSE INDEX	706.78	715.35	715.35	HINDRILCO	270	273.75	276.25	SHAW WALL	--	--	--
BURR WEL	185	182.50	187.50	HINDRILCO	390	395	400	SHREE CEM	--	--	--
CASHMERE	--	--	--	ITC	110	111	120	SHRI FIB	72	74	72
CEA ENKA	2750	2800	2800	KJ SYN	74.50	74.50	75	SIEMENS	68	66	68
CEA SPG	1970	1980	1990	KJN SWAG	137.50	137	136.25	SKF	1170	1180	1200
COLGATE	305	305	310	KIR CHUM	64	63	64	SPIC	47.25	49.25	47
CROMPT GR	--	1280	1300	KIR CHUM	370	360	370	ST MILLS	330	325	330
DCH	11	10.50	10.50	L AND T	108.50	109.50	110	TATA COEN	118	120	110
DUNLOP	28.50	29.50	28.50	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
DEEP FERT	76	75	77	KAL BUSSEL	107.50	105	105	TATA PGM	342.50	340	352.5
EI HOTELS	58.50	58	59	MAD COATS	100	97.50	100	TELCO	1007	1047	1057
ESKORTS	66.50	66.50	68.25	MAHINDRA	87	86	87	TRAPP AGRO	--	--	--
ESKATEF	113.75	116.25	113.75	MAH SHARE	150.50	15.25	15.50	TISCO	1272	1276	1287
ESSAR SPG	24	24.25	26.75	MICO	595	595	600	VAM ORG	152.50	153.75	156.25
FOOD SPL	157.50	158.75	157.50	MILKFOOD	190	187.50	192.50	VARELI	21.25	21.25	21.25
FORTES	48	46.25	48.25	NIDCO	83	82	83	VOLTAS	845	845	845
GAR POLY	68.25	68.25	68.25	NRE LTD	317.50	315	317.50	VINCO	15.50	16	17
GECHILPINE	39.25	39.25	39.25	MUK LIRON	125	125	128	ZENITH	52	50	52
GENDIA	85.50	89.50	88	NAT INDEX	362.94	--	366.80	ZIARI AGRO	71	70	71

TOKYO

PR. CLOSE	OPEN	CLOSE	CHG	31	32	31.25	NAT ORG	---	---	---	
ACC	245	255	254	GRASIM	113.50	112.50	114	NIPPON	39	39	39.50
ALOK CHEN	---	---	---	GSFC	157.50	160	167.50	NOCIL	950	980	960
ALOK FIB	---	---	---	GUJ ALK	72	71.50	73	ORRAY	16	15.75	15.50
ARI FIB	---	---	---	GUJ HEAVY	10.50	9.50	10.50	OSMAL AGRO	72	71.50	72
ASHOK LEY	65	62.50	65	NERO HONDA	19	18	19	PEICO	18.50	18	18.50
ASIA PAINT	192.50	190	200	HIND CIBA	800	810	845	PFIZER	59.50	59	60
ATLAS COP	35	35	35	HIND COCCA	110	110	111.25	PONDS	154	156.25	156.25
BAJAJ AUTO	326.25	336.25	337.50	HIND LEVER	92.50	94	95	PREN AUTO	52	52	56
BAR RAYON	532.50	533	550	HINDALCO	247.50	256.25	253.75	RANBAXY	77.50	75	80
BK BOND	78	77	78	HIND MOTOR	30	30.50	31.50	RAY WOL	83.50	83	84
BLOM PLAST	---	---	---	HINDRILCO	735	740	760	RECKITT	173.75	170	175
BON DYE	117	118.50	119	HINDRILCO	735	740	760	RECKITT	173.75	170	175
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BURR WEL	185	182.50	187.50	KJN ENKA	137.50	137	136.25	SKF	1170	1180	1200
CASHMERE	---	---	---	KJN ENKA	137.50	137	136.25	SKF	1170	1180	1200
CEA ENKA	2750	2800	2800	KIR CHUM	64	63	64	SPIC	47.25	49.25	47
CEA SPG	1970	1980	1990	KIR CHUM	64	63	64	SPIC	47.25	49.25	47
COLGATE	305	305	310	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
CROMPT GR	---	---	---	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
DCH	11	10.50	10.50	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
DUNLOP	28.50	29.50	28.50	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
EI HOTELS	76	77	77	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
ESKORTS	64.50	66.50	68	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
ESKATEF	113.75	116.25	113.75	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
ESSAR SPG	24	24.25	26.75	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
FOOD SPL	157.50	158.75	157.50	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
FORTES	48	46.25	48.25	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
GAR POLY	68.25	68.25	68.25	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
GECHILPINE	39.25	39.25	39.25	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70
GENDIA	85.50	89.50	88	LIPTON	67	67	69	TATA OIL	60	68	70

AMMAN

As of 9.8.89	OPNG	CLSG
ALA-KODIN COMPANY	---	---
ARAB ALUMINUM IND.	---	---
ARAB BANK	---	---
ARAB CHEMICAL DTR	---	---
ARAB FINANCE CORP.	---	---
ARAB INSURANCE	1.10	1.11
ARAB INT. INV. TRAD.	---	---
ARAB INT. UNION INS	1.11	1.16
ARAB INTER. HOTELS	---	---
ARAB JOR/INVEST/BK	2.30	2.25
ARAB PAPER COM/TKD	0.47	0.45
ARAB PHARMA. MANF.	---	---
ARAB PHARMA/CHEM	---	---
ARABIAN SEAS INS.	1.65	1.65
BANK OF JORDAN	---	---
BEIT AL-HAL/BEITNA	1.30	1.25
BELGIUM INSURANCE	0.95	1.00
CATRO AMMAN BANK	29.00	29.00
CONFECT/CHOCOLATE	1.05	1.25
DAR AL SHAAS PRESS	0.34	0.34
DAR ALDAMA DV/INV	---	---
DARCO/INVEST/HOUS.	---	---
FINANCE/CREDIT/COR	0.75	0.71
GARAGE OWNERS OFF	4.50	4.50
GENERAL INSURANCE	2.39	2.63
GENERAL INVESTMENT	1.25	1.25
GENERAL MINING	2.10	2.10
HIMMER MINERALS	0.75	0.75
HOLY LAND INS.	1.44	1.44
IND./PHATCO JEMCO	---	---
INDUSTRIAL DEVELP. BK	1.70	1.65
INDUSTRIAL/COMM/AGR.	---	---
INDUSTRIAL INVEST.	0.75	0.75
INTERN. COM/INV	0.13	0.13
IRBID ELECTRICITY	0.81	0.81
ISLAMIC INV. HOUSE	0.64	0.64
ITERMED/PETRI/CH	---	---
J. TOUR-SP COMPLEX	0.80	0.80
JERUSALEM INS.	1.26	1.29
JO TOBACCO/CIGARET	19.50	19.00
JOR CERAMIC FACTOR	---	---
JOR EAGLE INS.	25.05	25.05
JOR ELECTRIC POWER	---	---
JOR FINANCE HOUSE	1.20	1.22
JOR GLASS INDUSTRY	---	---
JOR HOTEL TOURISM	2.18	2.18
JOR INDUSTRY CHEM.	2.40	2.40
JOR INS AND FIN.	1.20	1.20
JOR LEASING CORP.	0.79	0.83
JOR LIM BRICK	---	---
JOR MANAG/CONSULT	0.50	0.50
JOR NATIONAL BANK	---	---
JOR PAPER CARDBOG	---	---
JOR PHOSPHATE MINS	---	---
JOR PIPES MANUFACT	2.45	2.36
JOR PRESS/PUBLISH.	1.79	1.72
JOR PRINTING/PACK.	4.25	4.25
JOR ROCK WOOL IND.	---	---
JOR SECURIT CORP.	1.12	1.11
JOR SELPHO CHEN.	---	---
JOR WOOD INDUSTRY	---	---
JOR WORSTED MLL	4.93	5.10
JOR. KUWAIT AGR	0.85	0.89
JOR. PETROLIUM REF	---	---
JOR. FINCH INS.	---	---
JOR. INV. FIN. CORP	2.30	2.28
JORDAN GULF REAL	---	---
JORDAN DAIRY	1.13	1.12
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.12	1.14
JORDAN GULF INS.	0.94	0.95
JORDAN INSURANCE	2.95	2.90
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	2.54	2.45
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	---	---
JORDAN TANNING	1.98	1.98
LIVESTOCK/POULTRY	0.71	0.74
MACH/EOU/RENT/MAIN	---	---
MAS INDUSTRIES	0.73	0.73
MID EAST EXCHANGE	1.17	1.11
MIDDLE EAST HOTEL	0.52	0.50
MIDDLE EAST TNS	2.00	1.90
MINERALS RESEARCH	0.79	0.83
NAT. FIN. INVEST CO	1.86	1.95
NAT/CABEL/WIRE/MF	---	---
NATIONAL INDUSTRY	0.95	0.90
NATIONAL STEEL	---	---
ORIENT DRY BATTERY	0.25	0.28
PETRA BANK	2.10	2.18
PETRA JOR. INS.	0.35	0.35
PHILADELPHIA INS.	---	---
PRECAST CONCRETE	---	---
RAFA INDUSTRIAL	1.91	1.91
REAL ESTATE INV.	0.65	0.63
SHIPPING LINES	---	---
SPINNING WEAVING	---	---
THE HOUSING BANK	1.22	1.25
UNIVERSAL CHEN. IND	3.31	3.15
UNIVERSAL INS.	0.65	0.68
WOODEN INDUSTRIES	0.85	0.89
YARMOUK INSURANCE	1.35	1.35

PHILIPPINES MAKATI

STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	110.00	111.00	113.00
AC-A	40.00	40.50	41.00	LC-B	33	34
ANS	3.30	3.35	3.40	PK-A	31	32
GLO	23.75	24.00	23.75	PK-B	34	35
PLDT	410.00	412.50	412.50	OIL SECTOR	---	---
KPI-A	5.80	5.90	6.00	BP-A	0.011	0.012
SMC-A	75.00	75.50	75.50	BP-B	0.012	0.013
SMC-B	118.00	118.00	---	LRC-A	0.0036	0.0042
MINING SECTOR	---	---	---	LRC-B	---	---
APX-A	0.014	0.015	0.015	OPH-A	0.045	0.046
APX-B	0.015	0.016	0.015	OPH-B	0.049	0.05
AT-A	50.50	51.00	51.00	OV-A	0.035	0.036
				OV-B	0.039	0.04

Makati Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION	SHARES	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I	7,535,070	74,075,550	1,678.90	0.16 UP
MINING	59,724,350	8,078,545	5,801.52	56.42 DN
OIL	253,200,000	7,795,450	6,956	0.095 DN
COMP	320,459,420	89,949,545	1,201.74	6.65 DN

PHILIPPINES MANILA

STOCK	BUY	SELL	OPEN	110.00	111.00	114.00
AC-A	75.00	75.50	76.00	LC-A	114.00	115.00
SMC-B	114.00	117.00	117.00	LC-B	33	34
PLDT	410.00	412.50	412.50	ZIP	0.0085	0.012
ANS-A	3.30	3.35	3.40	OIL SECTOR	---	---
ANS-B	4.65	4.65	4.65	BP-A	0.011	0.012
AC-A	40.00	40.50	41.00	BP-B	0.012	0.013
GLO	23.75	24.00	23.75	LRC-A	0.0036	0.0042
FER-A	2.28	2.30	2.28	LRC-B	---	---
FER-B	3.00	3.20	3.20	OPH-A	0.045	0.046
MINING SECTOR	---	---	---	OPH-B	0.049	0.05
APX-A	0.014	0.015	0.015	OV-A	0.035	0.036
APX-B	0.015	0.016	0.015	OV-B	0.039	0.04
AT-A	52.50	53.00	54.50	TA	0.02	0.021

Manila Stock Market Report

OFFICIAL INFORMATION				
SECTOR	SHERAS	VALUE	AVERAGES	CHANGES
C/I.	9,974,780	102,698,827.50	1686.61	D 11.77
MINING	115,945,010	26,501,140.00	5463.42	O 98.04
OIL.	565,600,000	12,859,810.00	7.322	W 0.090
TOTAL	691,519,790	142,059,777.50	1204.54	N 12.90

Bank plans to intervene regularly to stabilise dinar

GCC promises Jordan economic help

AMMAN, Aug. 11. (Reuters): The six-nation Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) has promised to help Jordan overcome its economic problems. Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Bin Shaker said yesterday.

Bin Shaker, just back from a tour of Kuwait and Qatar, told the official news agency Petra the GCC "will take measures aimed at consolidating Jordan's economy and bolstering its ability to bypass the difficult conditions."

The prime minister said talks in the two Gulf states focused on Jordan's structural adjustment programme and keenness to support us in our hardship.

He did not say whether Amman had secured any new financial aid. Kuwait gave Jordan \$80 million, half in cash and half in crude oil, following price riots in April.

The GCC also groups Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Central Bank Governor Mohammed Said Al Nabulsi said in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday that Jordan had asked Gulf Arab states to make deposits in the Central Bank to boost hard currency reserves. He said Gulf states had promised to help the economy, burdened by a foreign debt of more than \$7 billion.

Officials told Reuters this week Amman hoped oil-producing states would continue to provide two kinds of help — regular aid and interest-free deposits — over the next four years while economic reforms were introduced.

Jordan could place the funds with other banks and use the interest to swell its foreign exchange reserves.

Jordan has reached agreement with

the Paris Club of major creditor nations to reschedule some debt for 1989 and 1990.

Central Bank, with more than \$400 million in foreign currency reserves, plans to intervene regularly to stabilise the dinar, bankers said yesterday.

They said Nabulsi also told them that its two-tier exchange system for the dinar was a temporary measure and the aim was to unify the official and free market rates.

The Central Bank freed banks on July 31 to trade foreign currencies at free market rates but ordered them to use the official rate to finance key imports.

"Work within the framework of this two-tier system is only a temporary solution. We think now of unifying the dinar's exchange rates at the official and free market," one banker quoted Nabulsi as

telling them. "We shall continue our intervention in the market and we ask you to co-operate with us in our efforts to stabilise the dinar."

Another banker said Nabulsi reported that the Central Bank's foreign currency reserves had risen to more than \$400 million from 20 million a few months ago.

He did not give the source of the funds, but Saudi Arabia gave Jordan \$200 million in aid last week and the United Arab Emirates has provided 70 million.

Nabulsi said Iraq had promised to give \$15 million a month in regular payments to settle its debt to Jordan of more than \$450 million.

The dinar remained firm against the dollar on the free market, five days after the Central Bank started pumping more

than \$25 million into the market to prop up the Jordanian currency.

Dealers said it was trading at 818 fils to the dollar, almost unchanged since Sunday. The Central Bank fixed the official rate at 580.1/586.3, a fraction down from Saturday.

Dealers told Reuters the volume of trade with Gulf Arab banks, usually the main source of dollars for Jordanian banks, was improving and helping to steady the market.

"The market is calming down and people are more relaxed after hearing news that Arab states are helping Jordan financially," one dealer said.

"Over the past two days, business with our Gulf colleagues has been on the run. Our dinar and dollar trading prices are matching those in the Gulf and a huge gap which existed has disappeared."

Saudi bank cuts losses

Management shake-up

KUWAIT, Aug. 11. (Reuters): Saudi Cairo Bank said it had sharply cut losses in the first half of 1989 after a government bail-out and a major shake-up in management.

In a statement received by Reuters today, the Jeddah-based bank said it recorded a six-month net loss of 2.5 million riyals (\$670,000), down from 55.3 million riyals (\$15 million) in the same period of 1988.

"There has been a substantial upgrading of management," a bank official told Reuters by telephone from Jeddah.

Two of Saudi Cairo's managers, including the Egyptian director general, were found guilty in 1984 of using bank funds in illegal precious metal speculation in which more than 400 million riyals (\$100 million) were lost.

Bankers said that in subsequent years running of the bank was hampered by a dispute between Saudi shareholders and the foreign joint venture partner, Egypt's Banque Du Caire. Managers with little previous experience in banking were brought in.

The bank suffered major losses three years in row, topped by a loss of 110 million riyals (\$30 million) in 1988.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency several years ago placed nearly one billion riyals (\$270 million) in low-cost funds with the bank.

The official said the bank had had recent success in collecting unpaid loans.

But he said that in spite of having placed 8.3 million riyals (\$2.2 million) into provisions during the first half of 1989 it would be several years before non-performing loans were adequately covered.

The bank said it had reduced its net loans and credit facilities by six per cent in the 12 months to June 30, 1989, to 4.02 billion riyals (\$1.07 billion), while assets had decreased five per cent to 8.12 billion (\$2.17 billion).

Saudi Cairo is the 10th of the kingdom's 12 commercial banks to issue its first-half results for 1989. Nearly all have reported improved profits.

New economic plan

Mexico seeks foreign investment in tourism

NEW YORK, Aug. 11. (AP): Mexico has changed its strict laws regulating foreign investment in a bid to attract outside investors to its tourism industry, a Mexican government official says.

Tourism is Mexico's second-largest source of foreign exchange after oil and has been identified by the government as the most promising sector for growth.

Ezequiel Padilla, Mexico's undersecretary of tourism, said foreign companies in the past needed permission from a Mexican government agency before they were allowed to invest in the country, often with long delays.

Now, under the 8-month-old administration of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, that process is no longer required, he said.

"This is a dramatic change from before," Padilla said in an interview yesterday in New York.

In addition, foreign investors now can increase holdings in a Mexican company to a majority stake and profits can be repatriated abroad.

Mexico recently reached an agreement with lenders to reduce its \$54-billion debt to commercial banks. The accord is aimed at giving Mexico \$3 billion a year for capital investment.

Payments of the country's \$107-billion foreign debt have contributed to a steep decline in living standards over the past seven years.

Efforts to encourage foreign investment and lower trade barriers are considered an integral part of Mexico's new economic plan.

As an example of recent foreign investment, Padilla cited a \$300-million joint venture between Comex, a large Mexican conglomerate, and US hotel giant Marriott Corp. to develop resorts in five different areas in the next four years.

Another big US hotel chain, Hyatt Corp., is involved in a similar venture, Padilla said.

He said the Mexican government "will play a very strategic, catalytic role" in tourism development by promoting projects and selling land to investors, with plans to develop five tourist resorts in Cancun, Ixtapa, Los Cabos, Loreto and Bahias de Huatulco.

Mexico now earns around \$2.5 billion a year from tourism, which the government hopes to double to \$5 billion by 1994. Plans call for building 50,000 new hotel rooms, requiring an investment of about \$4 billion.

Trade co-operation accord

Nigeria, Australia sign pact

Lagos, Aug. 11. (OPECNA): Nigeria and Australia have signed an agreement for a joint trade commission as part of the Nigerian government's drive to boost economic relations abroad; it has been disclosed here.

A report from Canberra published here yesterday, said Nigeria's External Affairs Minister Ike Nwachukwu, currently on a tour of five Pacific and Asian countries, signed the accord with his Australian counterpart Gareth Evans.

According to Geoffrey Anicimena, Nigeria's High Commissioner in Australia, his office would oversee the various joint ventures between the two countries.

He described the agreement as a "product of some 15 years of negotiations," adding that while the commission would emphasise co-operation in agriculture, it would also explore collaboration in science and technology, engineering and trade.

Nwachukwu later told a meeting of businessmen and officials from the two countries there was a pressing need for both sides to intensify economic relations and overcome geographical inhibitions.

He listed various measures taken by his government to attract foreign investment, including financial deregulation, provision of an export duty-free zone, liberalisation of investment policies, profit repatriation, tax "holidays" of up to five years and tax reductions.

Nigeria's structural adjustment programme was also aimed at diversifying the country's economy to reverse an over-dependence on oil.

"We have a vast amount of human and natural resources," he pointed out, in urging Australia and other countries to take advantage of Nigeria's huge gas deposits by supporting the country's petrochemical projects.

Australian manufacturers' chamber representative Malcolm Overland assured the meeting that investors from his country would fully explore Nigeria's investment potential.

Bank dealer quizzed

AMMAN, Aug. 11. (Reuters): The authorities are questioning the chief dealer of a Jordanian bank taken over by the government nine days ago, an official source said today.

The source said Ali Sarraf, chief dealer for Petra Bank, was held by security forces at Amman airport as he was about to leave for London yesterday.

The National Economic Security Committee used martial law provisions to take over Petra Bank and Jordan Gulf Bank on Thursday last week and ordered their merger.

Central Bank Governor Mohammed Said Al Nabulsi said the merger decision was a pre-emptive measure to prevent the collapse of the two banks which would have damaged the economy.

Sarraf and Iraqi-born Ahmed Chalabi, the former chairman and general-manager of Petra Bank, were both barred from leaving the country, the official source said.

Chalabi was named to a six-man supervisory team to implement the banks' merger, for which no date was set.

The official source said Chalabi appeared to be missing.

"Chalabi has not been seen by anyone for the past 48 hours and our official records show that he has not left Jordan via legitimate channels," the source told Reuters.

Banking sources said Petra Bank and Jordan Gulf Bank had faced a run on deposits since last Saturday and had returned to the Central Bank for cash.

Hotel chain up for sale

BEVERLY HILLS, California, Aug. 11. (UPI): Hilton Hotels Corp. said yesterday that the hotel chain is up for sale, making official what had been rumoured for several months.

The chain, consists of 223 franchised hotels and 44 that are owned or managed by Hilton, could bring a price of more than \$6 billion, one analyst said.

Hilton said in an announcement that its board has directed its management and financial advisers to begin contacting potential buyers about either acquiring the company or its hotel segment.

The announcement also said the board would consider a spin-off of its casino operations.

The speculation over a possible sale has driven Hilton stock up from the \$65 range in May to more than \$111.87 a share when it closed Wednesday on the New York Stock Exchange.

In late trading Thursday, however, the price dropped \$2.375 to \$109.50.

Marvin Roffman, an analyst with Janney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia, said that most analysts had been putting Hilton's takeover value at \$85 a share earlier in the year.

Andrew Geller, an analyst with Provident National Bank in Philadelphia, said the announcement was no surprise, since the stock has been rising steadily for the past week.

The stock price began rising after the May 11 annual meeting when Barron Hilton, chairman and president, had said that although the company was not seeking buyers, it would consider offers.

Hilton has voting control over a quarter of Hilton's 48.7 million shares outstanding.

In June, Hilton named Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc. and Eastdil Realty Inc. as financial advisers to consult on strategies "to maximise shareholder value."

Roffman said, "today's announcement means that Barron Hilton loves the idea of the stock selling at the \$115 level and that he's determined to keep it above that level."

Roffman said he believes Hilton can get a price of \$130 a share, even though it may seem expensive.

"The Hilton name is golden," Roffman said, "it has tremendous power, like Coca-Cola."

In the announcement, Hilton said a package of confidential information about the company will be available next month.

KD deposit rates ease

KUWAIT, Aug. 11. (Reuters): Kuwaiti dinar deposit rates eased in quiet trade yesterday after several local finance companies began offering short-term funds around mid-morning, dealers said.

Short rates started off at a uniform 8-1/2 to 7-1/2 per cent early in the morning. But overnight was later offered at 7-3/4 and tomorrow-next, spot-next and one week at 7-1/4.

The fixed rates were steady with no trade reported. One month was indicated at 8-1/2 to 8-3/8 and three months to one year at 8-7/8 to 3/8.

The Central Bank adjusted its dinar to dollar exchange rate to 0.29576/86 from 0.29561/71 on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Saudi riyal interbank deposit rates market was more active at the shorter end yesterday as banks borrowed to cover cash flow as the weekend approached, dealers said.

Plans to restructure Philippines economy

Rising prices threaten social unrest

MANILA, Philippines, Aug. 11. (AP): Rising prices are placing new strains on ordinary Filipinos, threatening social and political unrest as President Corason Aquino seeks to restructure the nation's economy.

According to official figures, consumer prices increased last month by 10.3 per cent — their highest level since Aquino took power in the 1986 uprising that toppled President Ferdinand Marcos.

Prices jumped nearly 12 per cent in the central Visayas islands and Mindanao. In a country where \$399 a month is considered a middle-class salary, any substantial price increase spells hardship for the public and political risks for the government.

"This will hit the citizenry like a cannonball in the eyes," wrote Aquino's former spokesman,



Corason Aquino
Teodoro Benigno.
"The gauntlet comes alive when the public reacts to price increases," Benigno wrote in the Philippine daily Star, a pro-Aquino newspaper.

Public school teachers and other government employees already have been agitating for salary increases which Aquino says the nation cannot afford.

"There's no money," wrote columnist Conrado de Quiros in the Philippine daily Globe newspaper.

"Why doesn't the government tell it to foreign banks? Why should it tell that to its teachers?" he said, referring to the country's payments on nearly \$30 billion in foreign debt. Domestic and foreign debt payments consume 40 per cent of the national budget.

Teachers have demanded a minimum monthly wage of 4,500 pesos (\$214), up from the current 2,000 pesos (\$95). The official poverty line is about 2,900 pesos (\$138) per month for a family, and the government has agreed to give teachers 3,102 pesos

(\$148) a month.

"Even now, there is a growing recognition in government that the moderately high growth rates of the last three years are plainly unsustainable," wrote the independent daily newspaper Malaya. "Unless bold measures are undertaken, we might as well kiss recovery goodbye."

Many private economists believe the outlook for the Philippine economy is not altogether gloomy. The economy grew by more than 5 per cent in 1988 and is expected to increase this year by 6 per cent.

Agriculture, the source of livelihood for more than 60 per cent of the 58 million Filipinos, grew by more than 10 per cent.

Investments jumped more than 106 per cent in the first four months of the year, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Turkey cuts import taxes

ANKARA, Aug. 11. (Reuters): Turkey slashed import taxes on goods ranging from toothpaste to tractors by up to 80 per cent yesterday in a new bid to cut inflation.

Government officials said the tax cuts on 331 items would be effective immediately.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal promised the measure last week in hopes that cheaper imports would fuel competition and thus pull down inflation that surged to a five-month high of 72.4 per cent in the 12 months to end-July.

"This is a good lesson for cruel companies who do nothing but hike prices all the time," said an Ankara housewife. Real income has been slashed by more than half this decade.

But businessmen expressed concern, saying a surge in imports could push domestic industry further towards recession.

"Such measures should be taken cautiously and gradually to give our industry time to prepare," said Nurullah Gezgini, head of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and Industry. "Otherwise further drops in production and lay-offs are inevitable."

Gungor Yener, chairman of the Ankara Chamber of Commerce, commented: "This is a first warning by the government...but it will not have drastic effects on prices."

Some said Turkey, trying to prepare for full European Economic Community membership, had to remove protectionist barriers.

"Our industry has to learn to force itself to compete with world price and quality levels...we will have to try hard...we have to lift this over-protection," said industrialist Mumin Erkunt.

No figure has been made public for real first quarter gross national product (GNP) growth so far, but officials estimated the end-year figure could be as low as 2.5 per cent, the same as population growth.

Biggest decline in 3 years US wholesale prices dip

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (AP): US wholesale prices, driven down by declining costs for gasoline and new cars, fell 0.4 per cent in July for their biggest decline in three years, the government reported today.

The drop last month in the Labour Department's producer price index followed a 0.1 per cent decline in June as the whole sale inflation gauge registered its first back-to-back monthly declines since early 1986.

The July decline was better than expected and bolstered the arguments of economists that inflation will be well behaved in the second half of the year, giving the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, more room to lower interest rates in an effort to keep the economy out of a recession.

Despite the consecutive monthly declines, wholesale inflation through the first half of 1989 rose at an annual rate of 5.7 per cent, up significantly from last year's 4 per cent rise.

The inflation spurt in the early part of the year was caused by a sharp jump in crude oil prices and higher food costs caused by the lingering effects of last year's drought.

But with both energy costs and food prices moderating, economists are looking for inflation to slow substantially in the last half of the year.

The 0.4 per cent July drop in wholesale prices reflected the second monthly drop in gasoline prices, which fell 7.2 per cent after declining 4 per cent in June.

Another favourable price development came from a 1.9 per cent decline in new car prices. Labour Department analysts said this decrease reflected earlier-than-usual end-of-the-model-year discount-

ing by automakers trying to clear out a large inventory of unsold cars.

Food costs, which had fallen against 0.8 per cent in June, edged up by 0.1 per cent in July.

Inflation excluding the food and energy categories fell as well in July, dropping 0.2 per cent. Because food and energy prices vary widely from month to month, economists look to the inflation rate of other goods as an indication of underlying inflationary pressures.

The slight increase in food costs was attributed to a 2.5 per cent rise in beef prices, which had fallen in June.

The gasoline price decline helped to mask increase of 1.5 per cent in the cost of natural gas and a 0.3 per cent rise in home heating oil costs.

The overall 0.4 per cent July decline in the producer price index for finished goods one stop short of retail was the biggest one-month drop since a 0.8 per cent fall in July 1986.

The June-July drops marked the first consecutive monthly declines since a four-month period of falling wholesale prices from January through April in 1986.

The improvement in July left the producer price index at 114.0, meaning that a hypothetical selection of goods costing \$100 in 1982 would have cost \$114.0 last month.

Economists worried at the beginning of the year that higher food and energy costs could become imbedded in permanently higher inflation rates as workers demanded larger pay raises to make up for ground lost to rising prices.

Budget cuts will aid trade deficit

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11. (AP): Slashing the federal budget deficit would dramatically improve the nation's \$129-billion annual trade imbalance, congressional fiscal experts said yesterday.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office said that by meeting the deficit targets mandated by the Gramm-Rudman law, which requires a balanced federal budget by 1993, the country's trade shortfall could be cut by \$40 billion to \$65 billion.

Many economists agree that reducing federal red ink would help the trade imbalance. But by producing its 77-page report, which relies on simulations to make its arguments, CBO provided more ammunition to members of Congress pressing for a fiscal 1991 budget deal with the White House that would entail major deficit cuts.

The congressional agency estimated that eventually, every \$1 billion cut in the federal deficit would improve the nation's trade picture by \$300

million to \$500 million.

CBO also said that expanding the money supply would have little effect on the US trade deficit, since exchange rates are flexible.

"Among the options policymakers have for reducing the US current account deficit, reducing the federal budget deficit...is the most promising," CBO said.

The current account deficit is the broadest measure of the trade deficit, registering not only products but services as well. The US current account deficit reached \$132 billion last year and is expected to be about \$129 billion this year. At the beginning of this decade, the United States had a slight surplus in trade.

To pay for the extra goods and services entering this country, the United States must borrow money from abroad.

Japan opposes opening markets to American products

TOKYO, Aug. 11. (UPI): When scandal erupted in the leadership of Japan's ruling party, American experts speculated that trade talks between Washington and Tokyo would be put on hold until the political picture cleared.

Nothing could have pleased the Japanese more than this false assumption, says Karel Van Wolferen, author of one of the hottest and most controversial books of Japan, "The Enigma of Japanese Power."

What the Japanese want more than anything is for Americans to shut up about trade, Van Wolferen said in an interview.

The United States runs an annual trade deficit with Japan of about \$50 billion. "Nobody is pointing out that it is

irrelevant who will be Prime Minister," Van Wolferen said before the dust settled with the election of Toshiki Kaifu as head of government.

"The politicians have become so unimportant," he said. As evidence, he noted the Tokyo stock market hit a record high the day after Prime Minister Sosuke Uno announced his resignation.

The view of US officials is that a strong Prime Minister is needed to make and carry out the politically unpopular decisions to open Japan's market to American products.

Van Wolferen, who has lived in Japan for 25 years, thinks the American view is a mistaken one. He argued that no one, from

the prime minister on down, is in a position to make and implement decisions in Japan. It is a country where the buck never stops.

Opening the Japanese market is going to require a near revolution in the way Japanese do business, Van Wolferen says.

So far the United States has been nibbling away at the deficit item by item with little impact.

US trade negotiators have succeeded in getting commitments from Japanese politicians to open certain markets to US imports, only to find the bureaucracy or economic interests oppose the deals and prevent their implementation.

The problem is America has failed to set a policy to deal with the roots of the trade

imbalance, Van Wolferen says.

Japan's economy has developed through a system of protecting Japanese companies at home so they can compete abroad more effectively and, some would add, unfairly.

"You have to create a new reality, and you can't expect it to come from Japan," Van Wolferen said.

They do not want to change, and, as Van Wolferen describes in his book, they have developed techniques to prevent it.

Japanese trade negotiators often duped their American counterparts into believing "culture" prevents the country from opening its markets. Van Wolferen says in his book.

EVENTS

This week on KTV-2

- SUNDAY**
- 6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Care Bears cartoon
 - 6.30 Sea Hunt: "The Big Blow". A group of criminals threaten to blow up Jason's friend, who seeks Dr. Mike's help to save it.
 - 7.00 Architecture at the crossroads: "Houses Fit for People". A comparison between old and new homes.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Flying Doctors: Jessica, who returns to live on a farm, seeks medical attention for an injury.
 - 9.30 The Secret World: "Swamps: The Den of Demons". Rivers and swamps — the home of reptiles — are examined in tonight's episode.
 - 10.00 Kate and Allie: "Lovely Rita". Kate's father comes to visit with his girlfriend, comedy.
 - 10.30 Best Seller: "Robert Kennedy and His Times". Part 3.
 - 11.30 Summary: Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran/Closedown
- MONDAY**
- 6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Care Bears cartoon
 - 6.30 Scheme of Things: "How Do We Remember?". A look at the human brain and the mechanics of memory.
 - 7.00 Moving Report: a weekly report on news, regional and world news.
 - 7.30 Charles in Charge: "The Hooperman". Charles invites a friend home to see his new house.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Flying Doctors: "The Silent World". A look at the natural phenomenon in one of the national parks.
 - 9.30 The Best of British: "The Best of British". A look at the spy thriller made in Britain.
 - 10.00 Learning the Ropes: one successful song and Mark believes he is going to become the singing sensation of the year.
 - 10.30 Comedy: "Mr and Mrs Smith" (1941). B/W. Starring: Carole Lombard, Robert Montgomery, Gene Raymond. Director: Alfred Hitchcock's screwball comedy about a marriage that develops a legal hitch; contains many a Hitchcockian theme and stylistic tic. (95 minutes).
 - 12.00 News Summary; Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran/Closedown
- TUESDAY**
- 6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Amigo and Friends: cartoon series
 - 6.30 Captain Power: "New Order". Part Two. Captain Power encounters Dread and his men, who want to bring a new order to Earth.
 - 7.00 Gone Fishing: "Game Fish". A look at popular recreational sport.
 - 7.30 The New Adventure of Bean Baxter: "There's No Place Like Omsk". Svetlana, a Soviet woman living in the US, is threatened by a group of KGB men. Starring: Jonathan Ward as Beans and Eleanor Donahue.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 A Different World: "My Dinner with Theo". Theo pays a visit to his sister, Denis. Starring: Lisa Bonet.
 - 9.10 Horizon: "Mathematical". Owen feels guilty when one of her clients faces a death sentence.
 - 10.00 Hooperman: "Requiem for a Hooperman". Hooperman's colleague is killed in a shootout.
 - 10.30 Law: "To Live and Die in L.A.". Owen feels guilty when one of her clients faces a death sentence.
 - 12.00 News Summary; Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran/Closedown
- WEDNESDAY**
- 6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Trolls: cartoon series
 - 6.30 Safari to Adventure: "The Silent World". A look at the natural phenomenon in one of the national parks.
 - 7.00 Danger Bay: "A Man's Sport". Nicole finds herself surrounded by poachers and fights a tough battle... until help arrives. Starring: Christopher Crabb.
 - 7.30 Body Matters: "Male Mothers — A Cure for Infertility". Is it possible for men to have babies? Watch this episode to find out.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Simon and Simon: "Love Song of Abigail Marsh". Ray hires the Simons to find his adopted brother. Starring: Gerald McRaney, Jameson Parker.
 - 9.30 The Best of British: "The Best of British". A look at the spy thriller made in Britain.
 - 10.00 Learning the Ropes: one successful song and Mark believes he is going to become the singing sensation of the year.
 - 10.30 Comedy: "Mr and Mrs Smith" (1941). B/W. Starring: Carole Lombard, Robert Montgomery, Gene Raymond. Director: Alfred Hitchcock's screwball comedy about a marriage that develops a legal hitch; contains many a Hitchcockian theme and stylistic tic. (95 minutes).
 - 12.00 News Summary; Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran/Closedown



A scene from 'Paradise' on KTV 2 at 8.40 pm on Monday

- THURSDAY**
- 6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 6.10 The Real Ghostbusters: cartoon series
 - 6.30 Take Hart: a new educational series for children
 - 7.00 The Intruders: "The Unsavoury Migrant". Wildlife in Australia. Tonight, focus on a species of migrant birds.
 - 7.30 T and T: "Special Delivery". After the special delivery of a parcel, a man finds himself in big trouble.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Beauty and the Beast: Starring: Linda Hamilton, Ron Perlman.
 - 9.30 TV Bloopers and Practical Jokes
 - 10.30 Thursday's feature film: "Parrish". Starring: Troy Donague, Claudette Colbert, Karl Malden. The story of a small time plantation worker who becomes boss of the establishment.
 - 12.00 News Summary; Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran/Closedown
- FRIDAY**
- 6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Silver Hawk: cartoon series
 - 6.30 Inter Bang: the gangsters are after the seventh miniature of the Tower of Pisa.
 - 7.00 Walt Disney Movie: "Justin Morgan had a horse". Part 2. Morgan's horse competes against a filly from New York.
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Summer '89
 - 9.00 Around the World: a look at current events in the Gulf and other countries.
 - 9.15 Miami Vice: "Baracosa". Part 2. A Latin American group fights communists and raises funds through drug trafficking. Starring: Don Johnson.
 - 10.00 Open All Hours: a generation gap is apparent in tonight's comic episode.
 - 10.30 Moonlighting: "Take My Wife for Example". A female lawyer asks Dave and Maddie to find out if her client's husband is having an affair. Starring: Cybil Shepherd, Bruce Willis.
 - 11.30 News Summary; Magazine D'Actualite; Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV I weekly highlights

- SUNDAY**
- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 9.30 Cartoons
 - 12.15 That's Incredible
 - 4.00 Arabic film: Al Hanakeesh. Starring: Kamal Shennawi, Nabila Obeid.
 - 6.00 Tales from the Holy Quran
 - 7.45 Agricultural magazine
 - 8.15 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabat
 - 10.30 Variety programme
- MONDAY**
- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 9.30 Ifah Ya Simsim
 - 12.15 Summer Clubs
 - 4.00 Cartoons
 - 4.30 Historical serial: Meerath Al Saneen
 - 5.30 Children and Summer
 - 7.45 Holy Quran and Science
 - 9.45 Local programme: Monday evening
 - 11.00 Cultural programme: Ehtimalat
- TUESDAY**
- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 9.30 Cartoons
 - 12.15 Local programme: With the stars
 - 4.00 Arabic play: Al Mustanad Al Akheer (Last Document). Starring: Hassan Abidin, Ahmad Budeer
 - 7.00 Historical serial
 - 8.00 Seminar of the Week
 - 10.30 Arabic Film: Hatha Ho Al Hub (This is the love). Starring: Lubna Abdul Aziz, Yahya Shahin.
- WEDNESDAY**
- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 12.15 Local variety programme: Hurwar Wa Nagham
 - 4.00 Football match
 - 6.00 Children programme
 - 8.30 Folklore
 - 10.30 Weekly serial: Mahakem Bela Sujoon (Trials without jails).
- THURSDAY**
- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 9.30 Cartoons
 - 10.15 Cultural film
 - 12.15 Japanese competition programme
 - 4.00 Local play: Al Herman. Starring: Hayat Al Fahd, Ghanim Al Saleh
 - 8.00 Folklore
 - 8.30 With Islam
 - 10.30 Arabic film: Third Class. Starring: Suad Hosni, Ahmad Zaki
- FRIDAY**
- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 9.25 Cartoons

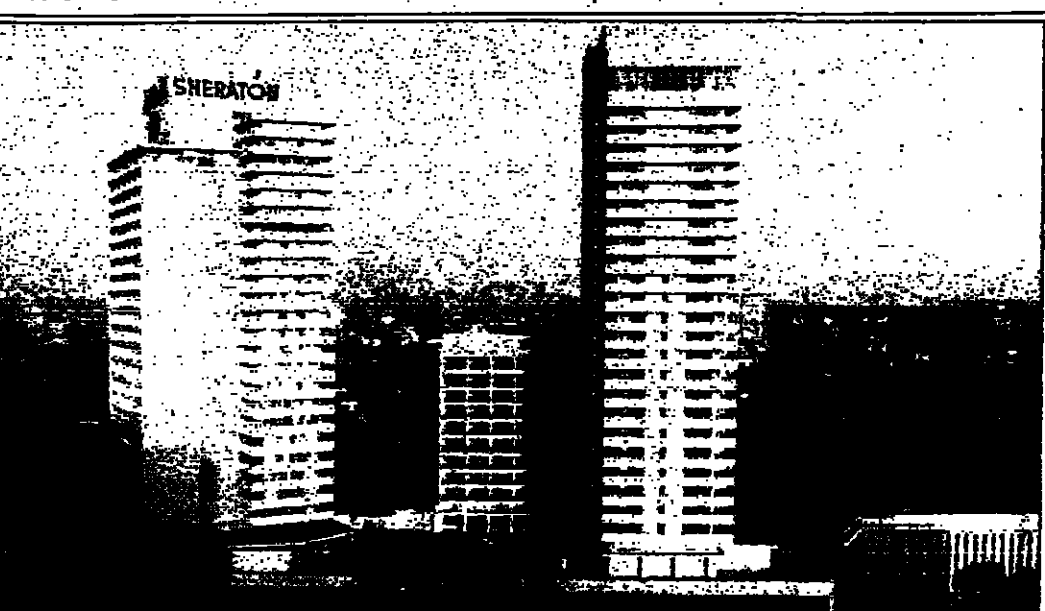
Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.



A scene from Ifah Ya Simsim on KTV 1 at 9.30 am on Monday.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

- KTV 1**
- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 9.15 Songs
 - 9.30 Ifah Ya Simsim
 - 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite
 - 10.15 Daily Arabic serial: Mahlan Ayoha Al Omer
 - 11.00 News in Brief
 - 11.15 Local serial: Naseeb
 - 12.05 News in brief
 - 12.15 Weekly Arabic serial: Al Mehrath Wa Al Ghadi
 - 1.00 News in Brief
 - 1.05 World Today via Satellite
 - 1.30 Sport Billy
 - 2.15 Daily Arabic serial: Al Mehrath Wa Al Oud
 - 3.15 Religious programme
 - 3.35 Cartoon serial
 - 4.00 English film: Gentle Giant
 - 6.30 The Little Artist
 - 7.00 Cultural programme
 - 8.00 Songs
 - 8.30 Religious programme: Nour Al Islam
 - 9.00 News in Arabic
 - 9.45 Daily Arabic serial: Al Mutasahiqun
 - 10.30 Arabic play: Al Dhamir (Conscience), starring: Sana Jamil, Majid Wahba
 - 12.15 News in Brief
- KTV 2**
- 6.00 Opening and Holy Quran
 - 6.10 Popples: new cartoon series for young viewers
 - 6.30 Owl: a look at shearing, sheep dogs, and cloth-making
 - 7.00 The Wild World of Animals: "Peaceable Lion". A look at the life of a lioness in the wilderness.
 - 7.30 Full House: "Tanner vs Glibber."
 - 8.00 News in English
 - 8.40 Starman: "The Probe". Starman meets a female scientist, who falls in love with him.
 - 9.30 Nuclear Age: "One Step Forward."
 - 10.30 Late night movie: "Strange Voices." Starring: Stephen Nash, Ellen Hayer.



Cairo Sheraton's new extension

Located on the west bank of the Nile River, within walking distance from the new opera house, the Cairo Sheraton Hotel, Casino & Towers opened the new extension. After the completion of Cairo Sheraton, the hotel will comprise of 670 rooms including 100 suites and 10 cabanas, all have modern amenities. Cairo Sheraton boasts of eleven superb restaurants presenting a wide variety of Oriental and International food selections. The recreational facilities are considered to be of the largest in Cairo, there are two swimming pools and a children's pool with a large sun deck and a snack bar, an elaborate health club with a fully equipped gymnasium, sauna, massage and jacuzzi. The hotel also provides a well equipped business centre and shopping mall which includes every need the businessman requires. Cairo Sheraton Hotel is one of the 500 Sheraton Hotels operating in 65 countries around the world. Picture shows a view of Cairo Sheraton and its extension.

NIGHT CHEMIST

- Kuwait**
- Al Motawa Pharmacy
 - Al Hilali St, Al Awaq Bldg. Opp to Al Shamlan Mosque
 - Al Baqasani Pharmacy
 - Ahmed Al Jaber St, Al Sharq Square, Al Raed Bldg
 - Al Joudar Pharmacy
 - Hawalli, Tunis St, Al Saqabi Property
 - Salmiya and Rumaitiya
 - Qortoba Pharmacy
 - Salem Al Mubarak St. North Salmiya Bldg
 - Fahaeel and Ahmadi
 - Al Eihad Pharmacy
 - Fahaeel, Makkah St. Property of Qais Al Ghanem
 - Jleeb Al Shoyoukh
 - Al Razi Pharmacy
 - Plot No. 17, Block 14, Property of Mubarak Al Khurainij
 - Jahra
 - Al Zahra Pharmacy
 - The New Commercial Market

CINEMA

- Al Andalus
- Red Scorpion
- Al Hamra
- Arabic film
- Al Salmiya
- Revenge of the Nerds
- Drive-In
- Arabic film
- Al Firdous
- Jaani Dushman (Hindi)
- Starring: Shatrughan Sinha, Reena Roy
- Fabaeel Open-air
- Basera
- Al Fahaeel
- Isabella
- Al Jahra
- Incredible Kung Fu Mission
- Granada
- Low Blow
- Salsabikhat
- Arabic film
- Al Jleeb
- Puravutham
- Ahmad Drive-in
- Grunt

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.48 am
Zuhr	11.53
Asr	3.29 pm
Maghreb	6.31
Isha	7.55

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

- Kuwait Science Museum**
- OPEN Sat - Wed, 8 - 9 pm only. Natural history exhibits from in and around Kuwait, including blue whale. Closed on Thursdays and Fridays.
- Islamic Arts Museum**
- SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon and 4.00 to 7.00 pm. Collection includes rare Islamic artefacts, Quranic manuscripts, ceramics, carpets and marine equipment.
- Tareq Rajab Museum**
- SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm; Fridays: 9 am to 12 noon. Collection of Islamic arts, costumes and jewellery from the Muslim world.
- Sadu House**
- SAT - Thurs: 9 am to 12 noon; 4 to 7 pm. Exhibits include bedouin handicrafts — rugs, saddle bags, cushions and textiles. Closed on Friday.

SOCIAL

- Pakistan embassy**
- AUGUST 14: A flag hoisting ceremony will be held at the Pakistan embassy, on the occasion of Independence Day of Pakistan at 9 am. All Pakistanis are cordially invited to attend. The embassy will remain closed with effect from Aug 12 to 14, on account of Ashura and Independence Day as declared by the Government of Pakistan. The embassy will re-open on Aug 15.
- Indian embassy**
- A FLAG-HOISTING ceremony on the occasion of the Independence Day of India will be held in the chancery premises of the Embassy of India at 34 Istiglal Street at 8.30 am. All Indians are cordially invited to attend. On account of Independence Day the embassy will remain closed on 15.8.1989.
- Fiesta Filipiniana**
- UNDER the auspices of the Philippine embassy here in Kuwait, the Filipino Cultural Club, under the competent leadership of Buddy Patungan, proudly announces to its clamouring fans the comeback of "Fiesta Filipiniana '89" with the original cast at its original venue — where else, but at the spacious elegantly-lit Al Jahra Ballroom of the Meridien Hotel. Play date is set on Friday Sept 8, 1989, 4 to 7 pm. Participants are kindly requested to submit their Civil ID card photocopies to Tolits

Matig-A, the club's director on social and cultural affairs. Rehearsals will commence on Friday, Aug 11, 1989. There will be a general meeting also for all his working committee on this said date.

For more particulars contact: Marie - 4317256, Tolits - 2417766. For ticket reservations, contact: Florence - 2436121 or 2439451.

INDEPENDENTS ball

AUGUST 17: At the Mesilla Beach Hotel from 8.30 pm onwards. Organised by Kuwait Independents Hockey. For tickets and details contact F. Di Mello (2421252) or S. Bajaj (2445825) after 7.30 pm.

Kapilku contest

AUGUST 25: Kapilku will hold the Little Mr and Ms Philippines, Kuwait, contest at Showbiz Pizza place, Salmiya. This coincides with Araw ng Mga Bata (Children's Day). For details contact Jojo Medrano, AVP, welfare and special projects, VCP Rosale Austria or VP Sarah Macarimbang — Tel: 483447.

Fit for life

LADIES' Keep Fit classes at La Palma Fitness Centre at the Kuwait International on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Free use of the pool after each session plus free use of the sauna on Tuesdays. Also judo, karate and taekwondo classes. Individual coaching for tennis and swimming available. Garden poolside barbecue every Friday afternoon. Recreation facilities include bowling, snooker and health club with sauna, steam bath and plunge pool. Telephone Paul or Vivienne at: 2530000/8050.

Kalpak exhibition

SEPT 15: Women's wing of Kerala Art and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) will hold an exhibition of arts and handicrafts at the Indian embassy hall from 3 pm to 8 pm. Those interested to show their own creation, please contact on telephone No: 5632708/4316737/5626620.

Colva Nite

OCT 19: Annual Colva Nite at New Ball Room of Ramadha Al Salem Hotel. Top Ranks in attendance. For details contact tele: 2413884/2434776/562914/14310913 after 5 pm.

Star Nite

DEC 21: Star Nite at Ramadha Salam 'Al Dira' with Perfect Strangers music. Children entry KD.3/- from 2-1/2 years to 12 years. Others KD.4/- with sumptuous buffet. Fabulous hamper prizes and variety social entertainment under 555 sponsorship. For reservations contact tele. (res) 5331940 or 2413706 pm only.

Breeze '89

OCT 26: Tivim Centre's "Breeze '89" is going to lift the floors of Ramadha Al Salam hotel New Ballroom at a social evening organised in commemoration of village festival. Top Rank and Stepping Stones will provide scintillating music, lots of surprises await. For further information pls contact the organisers, Casmiro or Mario on Tel. No. 2441860/67 after 3.30 pm.

FILMS

At the British Council

ANGEL, 6.30 pm on Saturday, Aug 12 and Sunday Aug 13, having been witness to the bombing of a dance hall and the killing of innocent people, Danny begins his personal quest for vengeance. This tough thriller was written and directed by Neil Jordan. No entrance fee, but you are advised to reserve seats, 2515512/2533204/2533227.

HOTELS

At the SAS hotel

AL GHAZER: SAS hotel's very own handicrafted dhow. Available for half day or whole day trip along the Gulf coastline. Food, beverages and fishing tackle provided on board. For booking, call 5657000 ext 403 or 416.

AL BOOM: Dine on charcoal

grilled foods and finish off with della coffee. Open for dinner daily, lunch every Thursdays and Friday and for reservation call 5657000 ext 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Chinese

specialties served in a very cozy atmosphere. Open for lunch and dinner. For reservation, call 5657000 ext 403 or 532.

EEDAM: Wide varieties of

delectable home-made goodies, freshly baked items to choose from. Eedam daily specials also available.

CLOCK: Only drive-in restaurant

in Kuwait. Serves wide selections of fast food including our very own specialities. SOCIAL

At the Holiday Inn

MELON week up to August 12: Come and enjoy mouth-watering selection of the sweetest sun ripened melons to quench the summer heat.

At the Coffee Shop: A

variety of Continental and Oriental cuisine to suit everyone's taste for lunch or dinner at KD5.000 per pax and half price for children.

Al Andalus: Thursday,

Arabian night. Savour the exotic food especially prepared for the night. Our local emier-

tainers provide wonderful

music. "Family brunch" Friday, a wholesome day for the children. Bring along your kid and enjoy entertainment from Walt Disney cartoon characters and magic by the great magician. Prizes and surprises await each kid. Price — KD5.000 for adults, and half per kid.

At the swimming pool: From

8.30 pm have a great night out by the pool to soothe the summer heat. Barbecue, music, games, prizes and surprises await each one. Bring family and friends and savour our delicious Shazazz barbecue, at KD5.500 per pax and KD2.750 per child.

At the Kuwait International

LA PALMA: Presents a culinary tour around the world featuring authentic Chinese, Indian, Mexican, African, Italian, British, German/Austrian, Turkish and Arabic dishes. Theme nights on Saturdays and Tuesdays. Ext 8166.

Faiala: Rooftop restaurant

overlooking Kuwait's picturesque coastline. Offers international cuisine and elegant surroundings. Live entertainment during dinner. Closed on Friday. Ext. 8012.

Garden Pool: Relax and

enjoy our poolside barbecue event every Friday afternoon.

La Patisserie: Offers an

extensive selection of pastries, oven fresh bread, savouries, exotic juices and ice creams. Also serves Continental breakfast. Pianist in the evenings.

At Ramadha Al Salam hotel

SEAFOOD FESTIVAL: Every evening up to Aug 10 at the Ramadha's El Bender coffee shop, enjoy the sumptuous sea food buffet where you can taste the biggest selection of Ramadha's jumbo shrimps, fresh mixed fish, Atlantic main lobsters and today's fisherman's catch in any way you like to make your mouth water. From 7 pm until midnight.

At the Messilah Beach

Al-Mubarakiah: The only 24 hour restaurant in Kuwait, offers a full spectrum of local and continental specialities with daily buffet for breakfast, lunch and dinner plus a la carte menu.

Al-Jawharah Super Night

Club — live entertainment by the resident "Rainbow" band with extensive a la carte menu on Wednesdays and special buffet on Thursdays.

Al Berdoweh beach garden

restaurant open daily Sunday to Friday offering a variety of succulent charcoal grills, Lebanese mezza, freshly baked markouk bread and hubble bubble.

Sorting the truth from the legends

Little drip inspires classic song

By Alan Graham

AS Noel Coward said, there's nothing quite so potent as popular songs.

People, particularly those who tend to measure their lives not in terms of international events but by songs, will be performers with whom they associate them.

Just one of these things, *Don't Be Bored With Me*, *Both Sides Now* and *My Fair Lady* bring instant nostalgia.

The best of these songs, with their haunting refrains and heart-tugging lyrics, were written in the thirties, forties

and early Fifties and are sure to survive long after the frenetic outpourings of today's pop singers have been forgotten.

Yet, considering the effect these classic popular songs have had over the years on millions of lives around the world, their composers have not given the credit or recognition they deserve.

Few people know or care who wrote the songs sung by Crosby or Sinatra, the music to which Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers danced, or indeed the "our song" of the courting ritual.

They've always been revered, though, in showbiz circles. Gene Kelly once said: "Guys like George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Irvin Berlin and Cole Porter were

geniuses. If a song in a show didn't work, they'd just go to their hotel room fix it or write another. Often it was ballad that, when you heard it, you'd start to weep."

And writer-broadcaster Benny Green is among those who have studied the structure of the songs and the technique of the composers and pronounced them considerable artists by any definition.

In a new book, *Let's Face The Music: The Golden Age of Popular Song* (Pavilion Books, £14.95), Green provides many previously unpublished anecdotes about them.

Green has been facing the music since, as a small child, he was taken to see the movie *42nd Street* and was bowled over by the compositions of Harry Warren. Later, while playing saxophone in dance bands, he developed an enthusiasm for the work of many of the best composers of popular music.

When he packed away his sax to become a writer, Green was able to meet many of his heroes and people who knew them.

It turns out that some of the real stories behind the composers and compositions are far better than those used in the inaccurate and souped-up "rags-to-riches" screen biographies emanating from Hollywood.

Green reveals, for instance, that Cole Porter was an egocentric homosexual obsessed by his looks and self-publicity.

"He was constantly preoccupied with his appearance, studying himself in the mirror and nurturing his suntan with comic meticulousness."

When it was decided to make a film of his life in 1945, Porter gave his permission on condition that the actor to play him should be Cary Grant.

Thanks to a legacy from his grandfather and marriage to a wealthy divorcee, Porter was a rich man early in his career but he spent many years touring the fleshpots of the world frittering away his creative energy.

Aimless

"His life seemed to be an interminable succession of aimless parties peopled by duffers to celebrate only themselves, a drunken sailing about on boats, dashing around on trains, travelling to this palazzo and moving on to the next, perpetrating witless practical jokes and always the consumption of wealth in a manner so feverish as to suggest desperation," writes Green.

Porter also orchestrated the facts of his life to make himself appear more glamorous. He had the knack of manipulating rumours about himself with great skill. But he did not, as he always

insisted, fight with the French Army during World War One and he did not enlist with the French Foreign Legion.

He was also imaginative and not entirely truthful about the inspiration for his songs.

Night and Day, he said, arose from his exposure to the wailing of Moroccan music and he claimed that *Begin the Beguine* was inspired by the sight of natives executing a war dance on an island in the Dutch East Indies.

Green points out that "all this twaddle" blurred the grace and talent of his best work. The real achievement of *Night and Day* was the musical structure, the witty variation in the lyric on the theme

of night following day and the way Porter compressed the range of the melody to suit Fred Astaire's voice.

Porter claimed the opening line of *Night and Day* was suggested by a remark by Mrs Vincent Astor about a leaky — "that drip drip drip is driving me mad."

Green comments: "These little scenarios might be more convincing if just for once they featured a hero or heroine who happened to be poor."

Irving Berlin was another who wrote for films featuring Astaire and Rogers and he confessed: "I could never have written *Cheek to Cheek* or *Isn't It a Lovely Day To Be Caught In the Rain* if it hadn't been for them."



Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers could dance all night — but Cole Porter had to restrict the melody of *Night and Day* to suit Astaire's voice.



George Gershwin was the sort of songwriter who would either 'fix' a song that didn't work — or simply write another.

No change in UK, US No. 1

Marika up 19 spots

NEW YORK (AP) Prince's *Baladance* retained its number one position for the third week in a row among the best-selling single pop records in the United States.

Also unchanged from last week on the Cash Box magazine chart was Bobby Brown's *On Our Own*, at number two, *So Alive*, by Love and Rockets, in fourth place, and Bon Jovi's *Lay Your Hands On Me*, at number five.

Richard Marx' *Right Here Waiting* catapulted from eighth place to third, *If You Don't Know Me By Now* by Simply Red plummeted from third to ninth, and Dino's *I Like It Like It* climbed up a notch to sixth place. The week's newcomers included *Once Bitten Twice Shy* by Great White, which jumped from 13th to 7th place, Paula Abdul's *Cold-Hearted* made it to 8th position from 12th, and Don Henley's *The End of Innocence* became number 10, from last week's 15th.

US Top Ten

The top 10 singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (1) *Baladance* — Prince (Paisley Park-Warner Brothers).
2. (2) *On Our Own* — Bobby Brown (MCA).
3. (8) *Right Here Waiting* — Richard Marx (EMI).
4. (4) *So Alive* — Love and Rockets (RCA).
5. (5) *Lay Your Hands On Me* — Bon Jovi (Mercury-Polygram).
6. (7) *I Like It Like It* — Dino (Island Records).
7. (13) *Once Bitten Twice Shy* — Great White (Capitol).
8. (12) *Cold-Hearted* — Paula Abdul (Virgin).
9. (3) *If You Don't Know Me By Now* — Simply Red (Elektra).
10. (15) *The End of Innocence* — Don Henley (Geffen).

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (3) *Sunday in the South* — Shenandoah (Columbia).
2. (4) *Timber I'm Falling In Love* — Patty Loveless (MCA).
3. (1) *Love Has No Right* — Billy Joe Royal (Atlantic America).
4. (7) *Are You Ever Gonna Love Me* — Holly Dunn (Warner Brothers).
5. (2) *Why'd You Come in Here Lookin' Like That* — Dolly Parton (Columbia).
6. (5) *Houston Solution* — Ronnie Milsap (RCA).
7. (9) *Never Giving Up On Love* — Michael Martin Murphy (Warner Brothers).
8. (6) *Cathy's Clown* — Reba McEntire (MCA).
9. (12) *This Woman* — K.T. Ostin (RCA).
10. (8) *What's Going On in Your World* — George Strait (MCA).

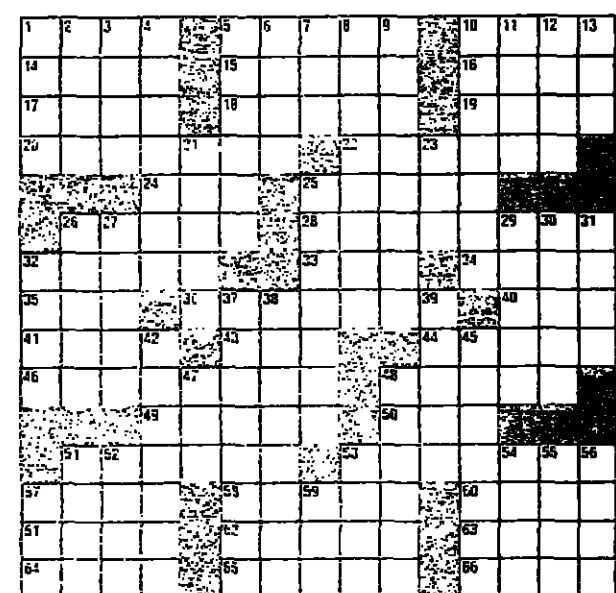
The top three spots on the British pop singles chart remained unchanged this week — Jive Bunny and the Mastersmokers with their retro hit *Swing the Mood*, followed by French Kiss by Lil Louis and Kylie Minogue's *I Wouldn't Change A Thing*.

UK Top Ten

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd, the national music retail chain, with last week's positions in parentheses:

1. (1) *Swing the Mood* — Jive Bunny and the Mastersmokers (Music Factory).
2. (2) *French Kiss* — Lil Louis (London).
3. (3) *Wouldn't Change A Thing* — Kylie Minogue (PWL).
4. (6) *On Our Own* — Bobby Brown (MCA).
5. (15) *Poison* — Alice Cooper (Epic).
6. (8) *Don't Wanna Lose You* — Gloria Estefan (Epic).
7. (7) *Ain't Nobody* — Rufus and Chaka Khan (Warner Brothers).
8. (5) *You'll Never Stop Me Loving You* — Sonia (Chrysalis).
9. (4) *Too Much* — Bros (CBS).
10. (29) *Toy Soldiers* — Marika (CBS).

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
1. Swift
 2. Points Fansian's
 3. Lord
 4. Planar
 5. Carap-Farrar
 6. 1955
 7. City near Buffalo
 8. La Scala
 9. offering
 10. Arthur R. Richards
 11. Correct
 12. Bit of net
 13. Siouxan Indians
 14. Ushers' bears
 15. Corrida cheer
 16. Potato producer
 17. Miscue
 18. Muezzin
 19. Towers
 20. Hunter in the sky
 21. Core of
 22. Blackthorn
 23. Bush's Miles
 24. for one
 25. Ancient road near Jerusalem
 26. Camp activity
 27. Concept
 28. River to the Rhine
 29. Chess victories
 30. Orchestra members
 31. Part of 10th
 32. Entertainment
 33. Leliva
 34. Flag on lake
 35. Insensate
 36. Part of EPA
 37. Historic
 38. Spanish river
 39. Mashhad native
 40. Lord of the Rings
 41. Activate
 42. Bealme's beloved
 43. Hard money
 44. Require

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
PICK YOUR DEMISE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ 8 7 4 3

♥ Q 7

♦ A K Q

♣ K Q 6 4

WEST

♠ 9 6 2

♥ K 8 5

♦ 8 5 4 2

♣ A 8 3

EAST

♠ 5

♥ J 6 4 3

♦ J 10 7 6

♣ 10 9 5 2

SOUTH

♠ A K Q J 10

♥ A 10 9 2

♦ 9 3

♣ J 7

The bidding:

North East South West

1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

4 ♠ Pass 5 ♠ Pass

6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Two of ♠

There's a saying in the Old Country: "If you drink the water you die, and if you don't drink the water you die." Here's a hand that bears out the wisdom of that adage.

North had his bidding boots on.

First, he cue-bid in support of spades on a hand that might not even be worth its full 16 count, then he raised South's invitational bid to slam. Fortunately, South had the

skill to take advantage of a lucky distribution.

Declarer won the opening lead in hand and drew two more rounds of trumps as East discarded two diamonds. Next came a low club, and West had to swallow a poisoned pill. If he rose with the ace of clubs, declarer would have three high cards in dummy on which to discard his losing hearts—two clubs and a diamond. So West followed low, but that turned out to be no better.

Dummy's queen of clubs won, and declarer cashed out the diamonds, stuffing the jack of clubs from hand. Next, he ran the queen of hearts to West's king, and that defender was faced with a pill even more noxious.

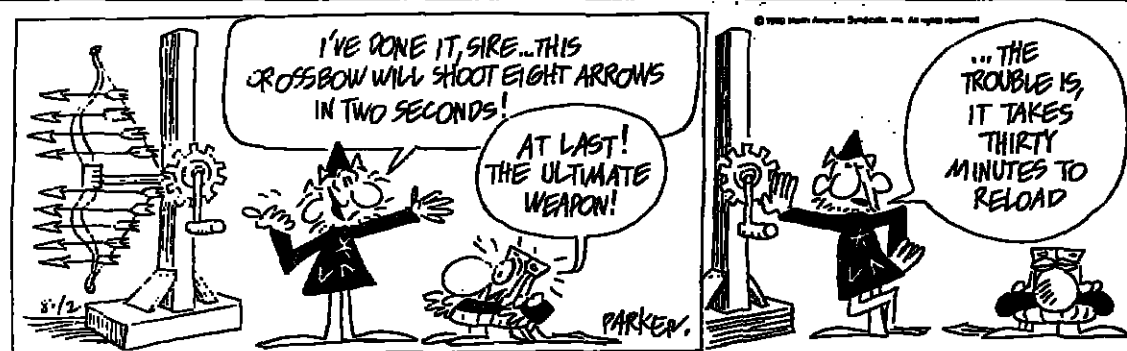
If West returned a club, he would set up the king of clubs as a trick with a heart ruff as the entry. If, instead, he selected a heart, he would be leading into declarer's A 10 tenace.

His actual choice of a diamond was equally futile. Declarer ruffed in dummy and discarded a heart from hand. A successful finesse of the ten of hearts produced the 12th trick for a most fortuitous result.

(P.S. We know South should have used Stayman.)

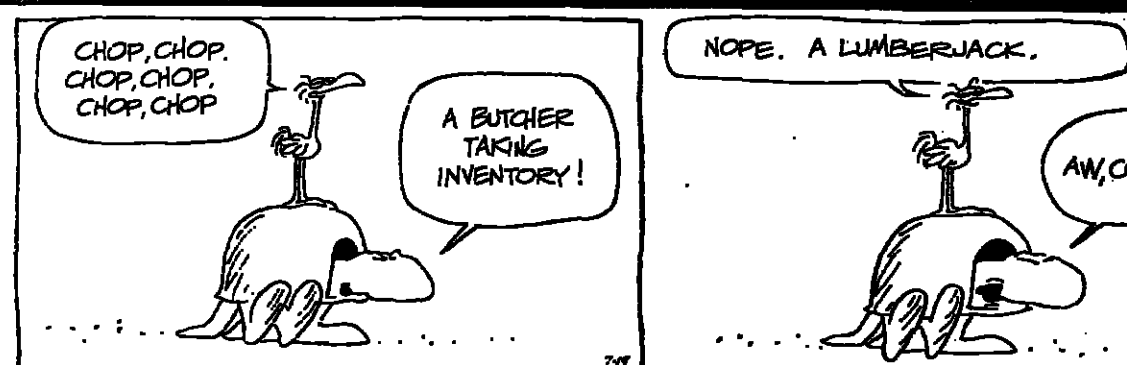
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Your children will not do quite as you would wish them to do, but do remember they are not carbon copies of you. Take a little more care of your personal appearance. However do not be too flamboyant. Be understanding.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

Avoid doing anything you know well your partner does not like. If you make a few concessions others will, too, and in the long run you will gain more. Expect less and you will be less disappointed. Be prompt.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will have some disappointments but there will be a success in another direction. You should make sure your partner does not feel aggrieved. You should not impose upon others. Be more tolerant.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You are beginning to fall behind and will have to give up some of your leisure activities until you catch up. If you leave all the loving to the ones who loves you might end up with no love at all.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

You will be able to give a friend your support and encouragement and he will appreciate it more than heshows. If you try to get your own back you may well do no more than make matters worse. Your lucky numbers are 4 and 18.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

There will be some luck but it may not be yours. Anyway, do not trust to it. Something you have been told will prove to be unreliable so do not rely on what you hear: make sure to check your facts, too. Be lenient.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

A letter for which you have been waiting will not contain the news you had hoped for. You will be presented with a difficult situation and must use all your charm and tact to deal with it. Eat well but sparingly. Be pertinent.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should act on your weight before you have a weight problem. Indeed, better to watch your weight than to gain or lose until you have to engage in crash diets. And do not kid yourself that a delicacy you like is not fattening. Be less selfish.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Do not say you will do something you have little or no intention of doing. You will have to make an effort to avoid getting into a muddle. Make sure you get all the sleep you need. Be resolute.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

If you say you will meet someone at a certain time be sure you are there at that time. Do not abuse the love your partner has for you, or you will lose it. One thing at a time is the order of the day. Be reliable.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Do not think everyone enjoys the sound of your voice all the time. And do listen attentively to what others are saying. You are liable to make a silly mistake. Be yourself.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Avoid postponing for too long what you know should be done without delay. Make sure your partner knows how much you love him. If you pretend to feelings you have not got you will deceive only yourself. Be less insistent.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

ACROSS
1. Swift
2. Points Fansian's
3. Lord
4. Planar
5. Carap-Farrar
6. 1955
7. City near Buffalo
8. La Scala
9. offering
10. Arthur R. Richards
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37. Historic
38. Spanish river
39. Mashhad native
40. Lord of the Rings
41. Activate
42. Bealme's beloved
43. Hard money
44. Require



"He says he leaves you everything you left him ... 38 bucks."

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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Available

SALMIYA, Baghdad Street. One room in a 2 bedroom flat for Goan working girls or bachelors to share with a Goan family. Bus routes 14, 15, 30, 109. Tele. 5734859 after 1 pm.

(AT5-48698-3)

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(AT5-48701-3)

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- Half villa, CAC, 4 bedrooms with cupboards, 3 open halls, maid's room, 3 bathrooms, and a car parking. Monthly rent KD550 inclusive of electricity and water.
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FRIGIDAIRE refrigerator - 416L. Rhoyom cooking range 4 burners and electric plate, dryer - Hotpoint. Tele. 3903880, 10 am - 6 pm.

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(AT1-48736-3)

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(AT6-48718-3)

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Bander Hilal Al Materi Building

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DRIVER with car, 10 years' experience in Kuwait, can speak English and Arabic, seeks job. Tele. 3902028, 8 am - 8 pm.

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MAID required, Filipino for baby-sitting and housekeeping to live-in. Must be good in English and have transferable residence. Tele. 5610425, 9 am - 6 pm.

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2407968, SALMIYA COMPLEX, M1, 18

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WANTED

TOYOTA (Crown-Cressida-Corolla), Mitsubishi (Galant-Colt) manual, model 87 and up except Colt. Tele. 4319177.

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Ang inyong tagapaglingkod

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PINAG-USAPAN

DOOR TO DOOR

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African cash crisis hits world class athletes

LAGOS, Aug 11, (Reuters): Poverty is forcing many of Africa's world class athletes to put aside national pride and ignore meetings on their own continent.

The recently-concluded African championships in Lagos should have been a valuable work-out for the African team in the build-up to next month's World Cup in Barcelona. But they were not able instead for the long list of withdrawals and leading

officials are becoming increasingly worried.

Lamine Diack, president of the African Amateur Athletics Confederation, admitted he was deeply disappointed by the poor field and believes the confederation must boost funds by attracting big-name sponsors and selling television rights if the 1990 championships, to be held at Bellevue in Mauritius, are to be successful.

The alternative, according to Diack, is punishing countries in future if they fail to send their best teams — a measure which he stressed would only be introduced as a last resort.

"I am particular about top athletes coming to the (African) Championships because nobody is going to pay for television rights to a programme with no audience," Diack told Reuters.

Top level events which could have attracted world attention failed to materialise in Lagos as a host of stars fell by the wayside.

Olympic 5,000 meters champion John Nguni of Kenya, one of the few big names in attendance, was, for instance, denied the chance of a first ever meeting with world record-holder Said Aouita of Morocco.

Reynolds and Lewis shine

Aouita takes revenge on Ondieki

MALMO, Sweden, Aug 11, (UPI): Butch Reynolds on a fabulous 400 metres and Carl Lewis on the 100-metre sprint took convincing victories to cap a fine evening for American athletes in the Mai International track and field meet yesterday.

In other events, Morocco's Said Aouita won the 3,000 metres to avenge a recent loss to Kenyan Yobes Ondieki, Floyd Heat upset Olympic 200-metre champion Joe Deloach and in another American duel, Kevin Young took his first victory over the Olympic 400-metre hurdles champion, Andre Phillips.

The 15,095 spectators saw American victories in nine of the 16 events in the south-Swedish sea-side town.

Reynolds kicked with 300 metres remaining to outpace fellow-American Danny Everett 44.32 seconds to 44.52 in the event's centre piece.

The race lost some luster when Olympic champion Steve Lewis dropped out injured Wednesday, running the first return race between the Olympic medalists.

Reynolds, the world record holder at 43.29 seconds, was second in the Seoul games, and Everett was third.

But Reynolds, who was totally exhausted after the race, boasted: "Steve wouldn't have beaten us even if he had been here."

"I will run a minimum 400-metre race until the 1992 Olympics," he said. "They are so tiring, I don't think anyone will beat my world record before the next Olympics," he added.

Carl Lewis performed his trademark slow start and excep-



Lewis won the 100 metres national final to prevail in 10.13 seconds despite 1.1-metre-per-second headwind. The six-time Olympic winner, who was slapped with a rare loss over 100 metres by countryman Calvin Smith in Oslo last month, was pleased to have won albeit

the somewhat disappointing time.

"Considering it was headwind and that I just came off the plane, it was a fairly pleasing start of this European tour," said Lewis, who looked forward to some exciting events in Europe, running next in Dutch Hengelo, Swiss Zurich and West Berlin.

"I expect to do my first sub-ten race this year very soon," Lewis said.

He was followed across the line by promising countrymen Andre Carson, a junior world champion, who clocked 10.22 seconds and American Leroy Burrell at the same time.

In their previous meet two months ago, late bloomer Ondieki inflicted Aouita with his first loss over 5,000 metres in ten years and his single loss on any distance this season.

In the revenge race over 3,000 metres, the two Africans ran stride for stride into the final stretch, when Aouita elegantly zipped away to win in the moderate time of 7 minutes 43.95 seconds.

Runner-up Ondieki, who was rabbit here last year, clocked 7:45.00 and was followed by Mexico's Arturo Barrios another 1.87 seconds back.

Aouita, who was to challenge the eleven-year-old world record, was furious after the race.

"The race was destroyed by Ondieki and Barrios," the great little runner fumed. "They blocked me and kept down the speed all the race."

With the world records on 1,500 metres, 2,000 metres and 5,000 metres already in hand,

Aouita promised another challenge on the 3,000-mark in Cologne later this month.

Heard took control of the 200-metre race at the halfway mark to win in 20.59 seconds. Deloach, who dethroned Carl Lewis in the Seoul Games, came with a strong finish but didn't reach quite all the way and was second in 20.74.

Young came charging on the last hurdle to upset Phillips for the first time over 400-metre hurdles.

Young, fourth in Seoul, clocked 48.60 and American Patrick McGhee surged past Phillips for second in 48.89. Fading Phillips clocked 49.24 finishing third.

Kip Cheruiyot coolly bided his time and set in a magnificent burst on speed on the final stretch to beat a strong 1,500-metre field including fellow-Kenyan Olympic champion Peter Rono.

Cheruiyot, clocking a fine 3 minutes 35.44 seconds, won ahead of American Steve Scott in 3:35.92. Rono led in the last curve but fell back to fifth place in the race which saw 12 runners perform under 4:40.

Other American victories were taken by Tony Campbell, who won the 110 metre hurdles in 13.52 seconds, 0.24 seconds ahead of American compatriot Cletus Clark.

Hollis Conway, who recently set a new American record of 2:39 metres, defeated Swedish world champion Patrick Sjöberg on fewer jumps as both finished on 2.31 metres and Mike Conley had the best triple jump this evening leaping 16.71 metres.



Roger Kingdom (centre) with Nehemiah (left) and Keith Talley on the victory stand. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kingdom back on top

GROSSETO, Italy, Aug 11, (Reuters): America's Roger Kingdom regained the right to the title of the world's number one hurdler this year by clocking 13.10 seconds in the 110 metres hurdles yesterday, the best time recorded this year.

He edged world record holder and compatriot Renaldo Nehemiah into second place on a humid evening in central Italy clipping a second off the previous best time this year recorded by Britain's

Colin Jackson a month ago. Kenya's Wilfred Kirochi, 20, a promising newcomer to the men's 800 metres, showed judgment of tactics and pace that belied his age to win in 1:45.00, holding off a late challenge by Senegal's more experienced Moussa Fall.

Italy's Salvatore Antibo managed to repeat his 5,000 metres victory last Saturday in the European Cup in northern England.

Coe takes a step nearer Cup place

LONDON, Aug 11, (Reuters): Two-time Olympic champion Sebastian Coe yesterday moved nearer a place in Britain's team for next month's World Cup in Barcelona — without setting foot on a track.

Steve Crabb, favourite for the 1,500 metres place, told the selectors he did not want to be considered because he will be best man at a friend's wedding that weekend.

Only Olympic silver medalist Peter Elliott, who is on the way back after injury, is now likely to stand between Coe and the chance of a triumphant climax to a golden track career.

World record holder in the 800 metres for the past eight years and 1,500 metres Olympic champion in 1980 and 1984, Coe will attempt to clinch his World Cup place when he runs in the British championships in Birmingham this weekend.

Coe, who has said he will retire at the end of the season to concentrate on a career in politics, may meet his old rival Steve Ovett in a rare clash between two men who used to dominate world middle distance running.

Brazil defeat Canada again

SAO PAULO, Aug 11, (Reuters): Brazil beat Canada 99-72 (half-time 48-35) yesterday, in the first game of the America's Cup women's basketball semifinals.

It was the second time within 48 hours that Brazil outclassed the Canadians. On Tuesday the host team scored an 80-78 victory during qualifying.

Paced by their star Hortencia Maccari, who collected 29 points, the Brazilians completely outplayed the flat-footed Canadians.

Canada visibly missed their top player Beverly Smith, who was forced to miss the tournament with an injury.

Otto leads powerful East German squad

Egerszegi has edge in 200m

BONN, West Germany, Aug 11, (AP): Kristin Otto, winner of six gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, leads an East German squad that includes six other Olympic champions and 12 rookies for the 19th European Swimming Championships that open in Bonn tomorrow.

Otto, whose six golds are unmatched by any woman in any games, is set for a thrilling backstroke duel with Kristina Egerszegi of Hungary that could shatter world records.

In this post-Olympic year, only one world record has fallen so far this season, with Mike Barrowman posting 2:12.90 over the 200-metre breaststroke at the US Nationals in Los Angeles on Aug 2.

But the clash between Otto and Egerszegi in the 100- and 200-metre backstroke races is expected to be one of the highlights of the week-long competition that also includes diving, synchronised swimming and water polo events.

Egerszegi was 14 and the youngest swimmer to win an Olympic title when she took the gold medal at the 200 backstroke in Seoul. Because of her small frame, she is affectionately known by her teammates as "The Mouse."

"This is the small mouse that will beat the elephant," said Hungarian coach Tamas Szechyi said.

"This girl will not beat Otto in the 200 backstroke in Bonn, she will set a world record doing it," he predicted.

Otto did not enter the 200 in Seoul, but one of her six golds came in the 100, where Egerszegi

had to settle for the silver. The East German will only swim the two backstroke events in Bonn. Otto has the best time over the 100 in Europe this year at 1:01.77. Egerszegi, who will turn 15 on Aug 16, has a big edge in the 200, however. Her 2:10.69 is more than two seconds faster than Otto's 2:12.74. Egerszegi is ranked second in the 100 with 1:02.24.

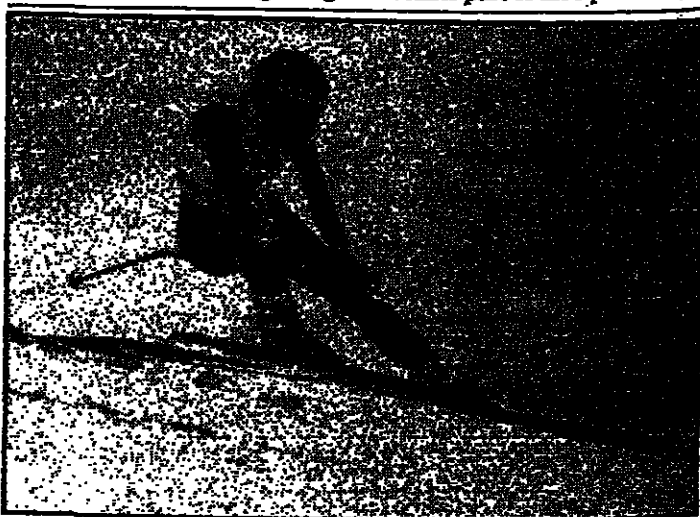
The world record for the 200 is 2:08.60, set by Betsy Mitchell of the United States in 1986. Egerszegi holds the European mark of 2:09.29.

East Germans have dominated women's swimming for years in Europe and went away with 14 of 16 women's gold medals at the 1987 championship in Strasbourg, France.

The upcoming championships are the first major international competition since a series of reports about alleged drug use among East German athletes, including swimmers, was published earlier this summer.

East Germany's squad is gradually being rejuvenated for the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. But the 12 rookies are backed by such established stars as Heike Friedrich, Kathleen Nord, Daniela Hunger, Katrin Meissner, Manuela Stellmach and Uwe Dassler, all Olympic champions.

East Germany took 11 swimming gold medals in Seoul, and 18 at the Europeans in Strasbourg. Dassler and his fellow men swimmers surprised in Strasbourg by winning four golds. East German men traditionally have been the much weaker part of the squad.



Anita Wachter goes down the Volcano course. (Reuters wirephoto)

Wachter finishes first

LAS LENAS, Argentina, Aug 11, (AP): With the time she had to beat fixed in her mind, Anita Wachter of Austria streaked to victory Wednesday in a World Cup Super "G" ski race.

"I heard the time," of then-leader Cathy Chedal of France, Wachter said after completing the 39-gate, 1,787-metre course at this Andes mountain resort.

"I knew what I had to beat," said Wachter, who received the gold medal from Argentine President Carlos Menem, who flew to Las Lenas for the final day of the opening event of the women's 1990 World Cup season.

Wachter finished with an official time of 1:19.50. Chedal was second at 1:20.43 and Petra Kronberger of Austria was third at 1:20.45. Kronberger was the second skier down the slope on a sunny, crisp morning. Her time looked like it might be good enough to win when Regine Mooslechner of West Germany and Michela Figini of Switzerland came close but fell short.

Chedal, skiing tenth, edged Kronberger, however, by two-one-hundredths of a second. Wachter, skiing 14th, was aware of both times when she began her descent from 2,675 metres up Volcano Mountain.

"It didn't change my strategy," Wachter said. "It was a good run. I made little mistakes, but everyone does." As she flashed across the finish line, "I saw the time and I was happy," she said.

Lyon to host 1990 world chess tourney

MAYAGUEZ, Puerto Rico, Aug 11, (AP): Lyon, France's second-largest city, won the right on Wednesday to be the host for the 1990 World Chess Championship final.

Delegates to the International Chess Federation's annual conference were to have voted on bids submitted by Lyon and Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, but John Poole, president of the New Zealand Chess Federation, announced he was withdrawing his bid.

Poole acted after being called to the conference stage for a private discussion with the president of the International Chess Federation, Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines.

He said Campomanes suggested he withdraw New Zealand's bid. "He was implying very strongly withdrawal with grace or be thrown out," Poole said in an interview.

Earlier, David Anderson of England, a member of the federation's executive council, questioned a stipulation by New Zealand that its bid was conditional on the participation of world champion Garry Kasparov.

The 26-year-old Soviet has said privately he might not defend his title in a match organised solely by the International Chess Federation, known by its French acronym FIDE. On Tuesday, conference delegates voted to deny players any say in the choice of venue for the chess final and gave FIDE the power to replace a player who refused to accept match conditions.

The rule changes grew out of a power struggle between FIDE, the game's governing body, and the Grandmasters' Association, the player's organisation headed by Kasparov, who is its president.

Gillian House of the Wellington organising committee accused FIDE officials of "political manipulation" in choosing the venue of the chess final, a 24-game match scheduled for 10 weeks starting Oct 7, 1990.

Dew quits after 10 years at top

LONDON, Aug 11, (Reuters): English badminton doubles player Martin Dew is retiring after 10 years at the top.

"I've reached all the milestones I feel I can. I want to finish with some self respect and while I can still hold my head high," the 31-year-old said yesterday.

Dew, who recently won his 100th English cap, is best known for his partnership with Gillian Gilks, with whom he won three successive European mixed doubles crowns between 1982 and 1986 and took the bronze in the 1987 World Championships in Beijing.

He also won four men's doubles and four mixed national titles and was Commonwealth Games champion in 1982 when he partnered Karen Chapman to the gold in the mixed doubles.

Mets move up in NL East Ryan misses another no-hitter

NEW YORK, Aug 11, (AP): Texas Rangers' Nolan Ryan, who once threw four no-hitters in a two-year span, now has five near-misses in two seasons.

For the fifth time in his career, Ryan lost a no-hit bid in the ninth inning when Dave Bergman singled with one out as the Texas Rangers beat the Detroit Tigers 4-1 last night.

"Don't get me wrong. I was glad I got the hit," Bergman said. "I was doing the best I could, but I was almost feeling, 'what am I doing on the same field with Nolan Ryan?'"

Bergman, a .260 batter, lined an 0-1 pitch for an opposite-field single to left.

"Anytime you come that close you're disappointed, but I realize the last six outs are the toughest," Ryan said. "In that situation, you just hope if they hit the ball good, they hit it at somebody."

Three other times this season, the 42-year-old Ryan took a no-hitter into the eighth inning, and he also went 8 1-3 innings with no-hitter last season when he was still with the Houston Astros. But in each case he failed to pitch his sixth no-hitter and become the oldest to throw a no-hitter.

Cy Young was 41 when he did it in 1908. Ryan threw his record fifth no-hitter for Houston in 1981 after he pitched four in a two-year span for California from 1973-75.

In other AL games, it was Oakland 4, Chicago 1; Milwaukee 10, Cleveland 3 and Seattle 3, California 2 in 10 innings.

The California Angels fell into a virtual first-place tie with the Oakland Athletics on the eve their three-game series as Jim Presley led off the 10th inning with his 11th homer for the Seattle Mariners.

Athletics 4, White Sox 1 The Oakland Athletics prepared for the California series as Storm Davis shut out the Chicago White Sox for six innings and Dennis Eckersley earned his 23rd save in 25 opportunities.

Davis, 12-5, allowed six hits in six innings and won for the ninth time in his last 13 starts.

Brewers 10, Indians 3 The Milwaukee Brewers routed the Cleveland Indians as Joey Meyer drove in a career-high five runs, Robin Yount had four hits and Charlie O'Brien

had three RBI singles. Ted Higuera, 8-4, won his fifth straight start, allowing two runs on 10 hits in 5-2-3 innings before leaving because of a sore left ankle. He has an ERA of 2.02 in the five starts.

Mets 5, Cardinals 1 Mets 6, Cardinals 4 The New York Mets swept a doubleheader from the St. Louis Cardinals, 5-1 and 6-4 yesterday, moving into third place in the National League East Division standings.

Kevin McReynolds homered in both games and the Mets, cheered on by a sellout crowd of 48,712, won for the seventh time in eight tries. New York pulled to within 3 1-2 games of division-leading Chicago, while St. Louis fell 5 1-2 behind.

"The feeling I get is that we are having fun," manager Davey Johnson said. "McReynolds is kind of streaky and so is Darryl (Strawberry). They have picked a good time to get hot."

In other games, Philadelphia outlasted Chicago 16-13, San Francisco held off Cincinnati 4-3 and San Diego routed Houston 13-3.

Eriksson wins opening Giant Slalom race

THREDBO, Australia, Aug 11, (AP): Lars Boerje Eriksson of Sweden produced a scorching second run today to win the opening Giant Slalom race of the 1990 World Cup skiing season at the Australian resort of Thredbo.

Eriksson, 22, was only the 11th fastest racer with a time of 1 minute, 14.49 seconds in the first run, but used a 1:15.31 clocking on the second run to vault past his rivals with a combined time of 2:29.80.

Ole Christian Furuseth of Norway, the defending World Cup Giant Slalom champion, improved from ninth after the first run to claim second in 2:30.05, .25 seconds behind his Scandinavian neighbor.

Guenther Mader of Austria was third in 2:30.17.

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, the defending World Cup overall champion, and Alberto Tomba of Italy, the Olympic GS champion, were 1-2 after the morning run, but each struggled in the afternoon. Girardelli slipped to fourth in 2:30.19, .03 better than Tomba.

Ironically, Eriksson's first-ever Giant Slalom victory came in first GS since 1974 that didn't include Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark in the starting field. Sten-



Eriksson heads down the Giant Slalom course. (Reuters wirephoto)

mark, the World Cup career leader with 86 victories, including 46 in Giant Slalom, retired last spring after 16 seasons.

Eriksson won his first World Cup race only last March, a Super-Giant Slalom at Aspen, Colorado. A day later, as Sten-

mark won his last race before retirement, Eriksson achieved what until today had been his best-ever Giant Slalom placing, a

SPORTS

British beaches attract surfers

NEWQUAY, England, Aug 11. (Reuters) — Surfers from all over the world are flocking to the cold, soft blue waves breaking on Britain's Atlantic coast.

Known youths from Australia, South Africa, the United States and anywhere else the beach culture has taken root are gathering here to show off their skills, have some fun and possibly pick up some of the \$80,000 prize money in the Hot Tuna Surfmen's Competition.

"It's the glamorous image of surfing which attracts people," says Malcolm Findlay, national coach with the British Surfing Association.

"Surfing is the sport of the 1990s," says last year's men's world champion, Barton Lynch, a 25-year-old Australian journalist. "It's a world where personal freedom and individuality are becoming harder and harder to come by, surfing is the perfect sport, recreation, art form, lifestyle or whatever you want to call it, for self-expression, freedom and creativity."

Around 100,000 spectators watched the 1988 event and the turnout in this year's unusually hot British summer is expected to be even greater.

Newquay, on the north Cornwall coast in south-western England, is one of 27 stages in the 1989 World Surfing Championship which began in March in Santa Cruz, California, and climaxes at the end of the year at Hawaii's Sunset Beach, where the prize money is \$250,000.

The World Championship Tour also takes in venues in Australia, Japan, South Africa, France, Spain and the United States.

The waves at Newquay can swell as high as 10 feet (three metres), against 20 to 30 feet (6 to 9 metres) in Hawaii. But the waves are more common at this time of year.

At first glance, Newquay with its rugged cliffs and rolling green hills seems like a far cry from the beach scene of the surfing world.

But the town of the cliffs gives way in the town centre to a thriving commercial heart where shops like the surf shop do a thriving trade in the latest T-shirts and colourful Hawaiian knee-length shorts, or 'baggies', favoured by surfers.

"Surfing has been on the go here since the 1960s, but the big leap came in the 1980s and now it's become high-end fashion," says Findlay of the British Surfing Association.

And, as Findlay says, where the competition is being held, the surfing world's most advanced surfers are flocking to the beach, where the surfers and local boarders demonstrate their expertise.

Tens of thousands of people in Britain own surfboards, but the hard core of devotees numbers around 5,000, says the British Surfing Association.

A good custom-made board constructed of polyester-based urethane plank covered with glass fibre and hand-sanding resin costs about £220 (\$350) while a multi-coloured rubber wetsuit retails for around £100 (\$150).

The commercialisation of surfing over the past few years has alienated a large number of aficionados.

"There are two factions developing in British surfing," says Findlay. "There is the 'black wet suit brigade', the soul surfers who are the fundamentals of the sport. And there is the 'fluoro brigade' (called after the fluorescent surfing clothes) who go in for sponsorship and competitions."

But enthusiasm for the sport in Britain has continued to grow since the first wave of surfers took off every winter to seek the breakers in the warmer climes of West Africa.

"It is one of the most mechanical-free sports there is — just you and your board out there on the sea," says Lee Bartlett, an unemployed 18-year-old who is one of Newquay's rising surf stars.

Gilbert tames Odizor for quarterfinals

LIVINGSTON, N.J., Aug 11. (Reuters) — Second-seeded American Brad Gilbert overcame a stubborn Ndika Odizor of Nigeria 7-5 6-4 yesterday to reach the quarterfinals of the \$125,000 Grand Prix tennis tournament.

Gilbert struggled to put the Nigerian away in the second set as he squandered five match points, including hitting a smash into the net.

The unseeded Odizor, ranked 198 in the world, drilled two wicked backhand passing shots to stave off defeat before Gilbert sealed his victory with an ace.

In other second-round action, Indian veteran Ramesh Krishnan, seeded eighth, ousted American Chris Garner 6-3 6-0 and Tim Donovan upset seventh-seeded fellow American Paul Annacone 6-4 6-2.

The ninth-ranked Gilbert, playing with confidence after winning last week's tournament at Stratton Mountain, Vermont, had too many weapons for Odizor.

"I returned serve well, and made him work for every thing," said the 28-year-old Gilbert. "But my passing shots were okay and I wasn't pouncing on the ball as well I would have liked."

Garrison downed Tauziat in straight sets last week in the semifinals at San Diego.

Navratilova needed only 61 minutes to improve her record against Phelps to 6-0.

"It took me a while to get used to the court and the sunlight," the left-hander said. "We both struggled in the beginning but after four games I started to play my game."

Navratilova trailed 3-2 in the first set, but the world's No. 2 player broke in the seventh and ninth games. She won four more games to start the second set to complete a run of eight straight.

Navratilova, 32, has won all four meetings with Mandlikova this year and is 29-7 lifetime against the native Czech. Yet she is worried about facing her today.

"I think she's playing better this year," Navratilova said. "She's getting back to her old form. She's putting her heart and soul into it, and it's making a difference."

Sabatini, 19, cracked sensational baseline winners against the 23-year-old Daniels. "I played a great match today," she said. "I didn't make too many errors. I was almost perfect."

Sabatini claims she has never been in better form to capture her first Grand Slam title at the US Open.

"This could be the year," she said. "It's the best I've ever felt entering the Open. I think it's all coming together. I'm playing my best tennis now. I'm relaxed, and mentally I'm feeling great."

Garrison, 25, the No. 6 player in the world, combined a steady baseline game with an effective volley to beat Javier — who had upset No. 9 Raffaella Reggi of Italy this week — in 70 minutes.

Seeking her third title of the year, Garrison raced to a 4-0 lead with service breaks in the second and fourth games. She raced to a 5-0 advantage in the second set before closing out the victory.

"I stepped up my play from the beginning to the end of the match. I played very well tonight," said Garrison.

ANDERSTORP, Sweden, Aug 11. (Reuters) — World champion Eddie Lawson is hoping improvements to one of his favourite circuits, Sweden's Anderstorp, will help him as the battle for this year's 500cc motorcycle crown reaches a crucial stage with the Swedish Grand Prix on Sunday.

"I've got lots of good memories of the Anderstorp circuit," said Lawson, a winner here three times, who trails fellow-American Wayne Rainey by just 6.5 points with three races to go.

Lawson has spent several days testing the new surface at the circuit in south-western Sweden — improved at a cost of \$600,000 — working out how to save vital fractions of seconds.

"It is very smooth, much better than in previous years," the 31-year-old Honda rider said. Lawson first won here in 1984 and went on to win the world title — a double he repeated in 1986 and 1988.

Spain confirms outbreak of horse plague

MADRID, Aug 11. (Reuters) — Spanish authorities said today that two horses found dead in the southern region of Andalusia last week died of African horse plague.

The fresh outbreak of the highly infectious disease — the third in three years — could jeopardise equestrian events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

It is confirmed that two horses died of horse plague, "spokesman for the regional Andalusia government" said. Tests had still not established what a third horse died of.

Regional authorities were meeting to discuss what measures to take, the spokeswoman said. She gave no more details.

Exhibition match

Bobby Charlton (left) is greeted by former Soviet goalkeeper Lev Yashin at the Dinamo Sports Hall in Moscow on Wednesday. Charlton was one of the many of Yashin's contemporaries who played an exhibition match Thursday evening in honour of his 60th birthday.

Below: Yashin (on crutches) talks to Charlton (centre) and Argentine national coach Ricardo Bilardo (left). (Reuters wirephotos)

But in an interview with the mass circulation newspaper Bild, the Canadian said he was not worried about the possibility of his name being erased from the record books.

"Even if I am stripped of the world record there will be plenty of chances to win it back," he said. "I will prove who the best sprinter in the world is. I have not reached my potential."

Johnson admitted to a Canadian drugs inquiry earlier this year that he had taken performance-boosting anabolic steroids since 1981.

But in the interview with Bild published today he said he believed he could chip a tenth of a second off his discredited Seoul record of 9.79 seconds without using steroids.

Johnson, in West Germany at Bild's invitation, said he had resumed training two weeks ago. "I am sure I could still run the 100 metres in 10 seconds, perhaps even faster," he said. "My body wants to do it. My heart wants to do it. But the time isn't ripe yet. I am still banned for another 14 months."

His suspension expires on September 25 next year and he hopes to make his comeback on the day he is reinstated. He also hopes to race against Carl Lewis over 100 metres but is not sure whether the American would be interested.

Lewis was awarded the Seoul 100 metres title after Johnson's disqualification.

Navratilova and Sabatini win

Garrison crushes Javier



Navratilova: overwhelmed Phelps

Drivers face problems on Hungarian circuit

Patrese takes provisional pole

BUDAPEST, Aug 11. (Reuters) — Riccardo Patrese exceeded all expectations today when he claimed provisional pole position for Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix motor race.

Patrese, driving a Renault-powered Williams, dominated the opening qualifying session with a flying lap of one minute 19.726 seconds after only 26 minutes of the one-hour session.

The time was more than a second quicker than the second-best time, recorded by compatriot Alex Caffi in a Dallara.

Patrese's great opportunity to lead the McLaren team's run of 17 successive poles in tomorrow's final qualifying session.

Caffi clocked 1:21.040 to join Patrese on the front row of the provisional grid.

World championship-leading Frenchman Alain Prost was third-quickest on the revised

Hungarian circuit with a time of 1:21.076 but his McLaren team-mate Ayrton Senna of Brazil could manage only the sixth-best time on a day of untypical problems for him and the Honda-powered team.

Halted in the morning's free session by an oil leak, Senna was forced to run in the team's spare car which had been set up for Prost and he rarely looked happy or settled.

Austrian Gerhard Berger, who replaces Prost at McLaren next year, was fourth quickest in a Ferrari ahead of Italian Alessandro Nannini in a Benetton.

British Nigel Mansell, in the other Ferrari, was unable to break into the leading group of times and finished ninth-fastest complaining about the balance and handling of his car. "It was virtually undrivable," said Mansell. "The front end of the car was all over the place but I am

sure we can cure it and do a lot better tomorrow."

Mansell was not the only driver with handling problems on the dusty, twisting 3.967-km circuit which this year has been improved by the removal of one slow bend.

Both Prost and Senna also complained about the set-up of their McLarens.

Prost said: "The car was not right for the track conditions. It is a similar problem to the one we experienced on the first day here last year."

"The design of the track with several banked corners tends to contribute to this sort of imbalance but maybe we will gain more grip as more rubber is laid on the racing line."

Senna agreed. "We just have to concentrate on working out a better set-up for tomorrow," he said.

Careca on bench for qualifier

SANTIAGO, Aug 11. (Reuters) — Such is the depth of Brazilian soccer talent that star striker Careca, who plays alongside Maradona for Italy's Napoli, will be sitting on the substitutes' bench when his side kick off against Chile in a World Cup qualifying match on Sunday.

Brazilian manager Sebastiao Lazaroni, determined to get a win even though a draw would probably clinch Brazil's place in next year's finals, plans to stick to the attacking partnership of Romario, Silas and Bebeto, top scorer in the South American Championship.

"Brazilian football is about attack. Although a draw would be very useful, I can assure (you) we haven't given any thought to a defensive system," Lazaroni said before leaving Rio de Janeiro.

Chile were the last South American side to beat Brazil — in the 1987 South American tournament — but the Brazilians, who last month won the South American championship, have never lost a World Cup qualifying match.

"We will probably face a hostile climate in Chile. I have warned the players but I don't think the pressure will worry them," Lazaroni said. Brazil, who lead the South American qualifying Group Three on goals scored after beating Ven-

ezuela 4-0 in their opening match, have regained face since a disastrous European tour in June when they failed to win a game and suffered a humiliating 4-0 loss to Denmark.

Since returning Brazil, three times World Cup winners, have gone 10 matches without defeat and conceded only one goal.

But Chile, who themselves defeated Venezuela 3-1 in Caracas, plan to put up strong resistance before an expected crowd of 80,000 in Santiago's national stadium.

"Chile have the weapons to eliminate Brazil. We believe in ourselves," Chilean manager Orlando Aravena said.

Chile's only selection doubt was over striker Rubio who was due back from Europe today after playing in a mid-week match for his Swiss club St. Gallen.

Teams (probable): Chile — Rojas, Reyes, Astengo, Gonzalez, Puebla, Pizarro, Ormeno, Aravena, Rubio, Yanez, Bassay.

Brazil — Taffarel, Mauro Galvao, Mazinho, Aldair, Ricardo, Branco, Dunga, Valdo, Silas, Bebeto, Romario.

Spain confirms outbreak of horse plague

MADRID, Aug 11. (Reuters) — Spanish authorities said today that two horses found dead in the southern region of Andalusia last week died of African horse plague.

The fresh outbreak of the highly infectious disease — the third in three years — could jeopardise equestrian events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games.

It is confirmed that two horses died of horse plague, "spokesman for the regional Andalusia government" said. Tests had still not established what a third horse died of.

Regional authorities were meeting to discuss what measures to take, the spokeswoman said. She gave no more details.

Exhibition match

Bobby Charlton (left) is greeted by former Soviet goalkeeper Lev Yashin at the Dinamo Sports Hall in Moscow on Wednesday. Charlton was one of the many of Yashin's contemporaries who played an exhibition match Thursday evening in honour of his 60th birthday.

Below: Yashin (on crutches) talks to Charlton (centre) and Argentine national coach Ricardo Bilardo (left). (Reuters wirephotos)

But in an interview with the mass circulation newspaper Bild, the Canadian said he was not worried about the possibility of his name being erased from the record books.

"Even if I am stripped of the world record there will be plenty of chances to win it back," he said. "I will prove who the best sprinter in the world is. I have not reached my potential."

Johnson admitted to a Canadian drugs inquiry earlier this year that he had taken performance-boosting anabolic steroids since 1981.

But in the interview with Bild published today he said he believed he could chip a tenth of a second off his discredited Seoul record of 9.79 seconds without using steroids.

Johnson, in West Germany at Bild's invitation, said he had resumed training two weeks ago. "I am sure I could still run the 100 metres in 10 seconds, perhaps even faster," he said. "My body wants to do it. My heart wants to do it. But the time isn't ripe yet. I am still banned for another 14 months."

His suspension expires on September 25 next year and he hopes to make his comeback on the day he is reinstated. He also hopes to race against Carl Lewis over 100 metres but is not sure whether the American would be interested.

Lewis was awarded the Seoul 100 metres title after Johnson's disqualification.

PSV begin soccer season in Spain

PSV Eindhoven will be conspicuous by their absence when the Dutch soccer season sparks into life this weekend.

The Dutch champions and Cup winners will be honing their game in a tournament in Spain while last season's runners-up, Ajax, travel to newly-promoted Den Haag tomorrow in a match sure to be more closely monitored off the pitch than on it.

Two years ago the Den Haag-Ajax match had to be abandoned because of rioting by fans, and officials will be anxious to ensure this Dutch season does not begin in such ignominious circumstances.

The West German First Division will also be without their champions — Bayern Munich — as they seek a confidence-boosting performance in the same Spanish tournament as PSV — but French champions Marseille continue their chase of League leaders Bordeaux when they visit Nice.

Ajax will be without 26-year-old Swedish striker Stefan Pettersson, ruled out until January with torn knee ligaments, for the trip to Den Haag. Pal Fischer,



Butragueno (right): scored one for Real

the 23-year-old Hungarian signed from Ferenacvros, will make his League debut as the Swede's deputy.

Feyenoord open their campaign at Utrecht but new coach Montpelier's Eric Cantona

Pim Verbeek will be without new central defender John De Wolf, who will miss the first few weeks of the season with knee problems.

In Bayern's absence, the West German spotlight will fall on 1988 champions Werder Bremen, who meet Borussia Dortmund at home in a repeat of last season's Cup final. But Werder will not want a repeat of the result — they lost 4-1.

In France, all eyes will again be on Marseille and their trio of new international signings, Chris Waddle of England, Uruguay's Enzo Francescoli and Brazilian sweeper Jose Carlos Mozer.

All three have found the net in the opening weeks of the season and Mozer looks certain to receive a hero's welcome from fans following his row with Brazilian coach Sebastiao Lazaroni over his decision to quit the World Cup squad and return to France.

But Bordeaux can expect to stay top by taking two points from their meeting with Lille, who have made a poor start to the season.

Montpelier's Eric Cantona

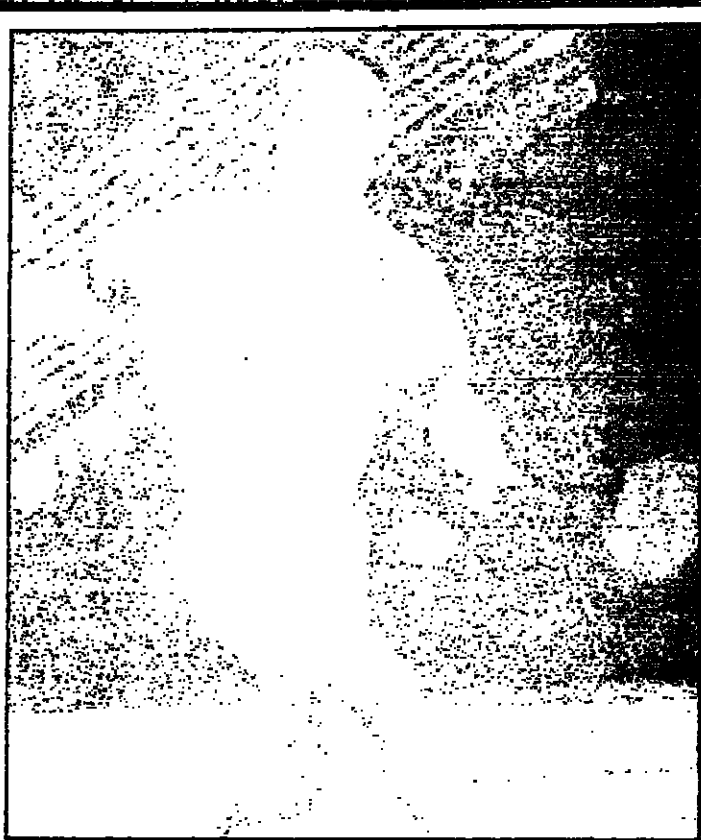
could prove a handful for Auxerre after his morale-boosting call-up to the French national side for next week's friendly international against Sweden.

Welshman John Toshak watched his new, reshaped Real Madrid side sweep to a comfortable 4-0 pre-season win over Racing at Santander on Wednesday — Spaniards Emilio Butragueno, Michel Gonzalez, Sebastian Losada and Mexican Hugo Sanchez all scoring.

Real's new look boasts a five-man defence and employs West German Bernd Schuster as libero which allows Michel to roam midfield free of defensive responsibilities.

New signing Fernando Hierro, formerly of Valladolid, stepped confidently into the back four but Toshak was deprived of the services of his other close-season buy, Argentine international Oscar Ruggeri. He suffered a leg injury in one of the Welshman's first training sessions.

Barcelona drew their friendly against Benidorm 3-3, with Danish striker Michael Laudrup lacking sparkle in his debut.



McEnroe had a slow start

Edberg sails through

McEnroe rallies to beat Schapery

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug 11. (Reuters) — John McEnroe overcame a sluggish start, while Stefan Edberg cruised through his match as the top five seeds reached the quarterfinals of the \$417,500 US Men's Hard-court Tennis Championships yesterday.

The top-seeded Edberg, playing his first event since losing the Wimbledon final to Boris Becker, outclassed David Pate 6-3 6-1 and appeared generous in allowing the American four games.

By contrast McEnroe, also competing for the first time since his strong showing at Wimbledon, appeared distracted and had to come from behind to beat Dutchman Michiel Schapery 4-6 6-1 6-2.

A trio of Americans — third seed Tim Mayotte, fourth seed Aaron Krickstein and fifth seed Jay Berger — posted straight-set victories yesterday to advance.

The 36-year-old McEnroe, seeded second, served two double faults to drop the first game of the match at love.

"It's dumb for me to get off to slow starts. I used to pride myself on getting off to great starts. But it's been causing me some problems and it's disappointing," admitted McEnroe, whose ranking has risen to fifth in the world.

The hard-serving 81-ranked Schapery connected on an impressive 70 per cent of his first serves in the opening set before McEnroe found his rhythm and broke the Dutchman twice in each of the second and third sets to take the match.

"The difficult thing about sports is having to prove you're the better player every day," said McEnroe. Edberg, third in the world, surrendered just 11 points to the 145-ranked Pate in the second set.

"If you want to default, now's your chance," Pate down 0-5, told the Swede before taking his one game of the second set.

Gomez upsets Wilander

BROOKLINE, Mass., Aug 11. (Reuters) — Sixth-seed Andres Gomez of Ecuador needed just 34 minutes on Wednesday to upset Mats Wilander 6-1 6-4 in the final of the US Pro Tennis Championship.

Setting a fast pace, perhaps because he had to wait three weeks after a mid-July thunderstorm postponed the battle.

Gomez avoided long rallies with the usually consistent Wilander. Instead, he rifled shots to the baseline that enabled him to charge the net and capture 20 of the final 27 points in the opening set.

"I planned to hit two or three shots and then come to net. I didn't hit great volleys but they were good enough," Gomez said.



Exhibition match

Bobby Charlton (left) is greeted by former Soviet goalkeeper Lev Yashin at the Dinamo Sports Hall in Moscow on Wednesday. Charlton was one of the many of Yashin's contemporaries who played an exhibition match Thursday evening in honour of his 60th birthday.

Below: Yashin (on crutches) talks to Charlton (centre) and Argentine national coach Ricardo Bilardo (left). (Reuters wirephotos)



I'll prove I'm fastest: Johnson

BONN, Aug 11. (Reuters) — Ben Johnson intends to prove he is the world's fastest sprinter without using drugs.

Johnson, stripped of his Olympic 100 metres gold medal after a positive dope test, also forfeited the world record of 9.79 seconds set at last year's Seoul Games.

Under tough new anti-doping rules proposed by the International Amateur Athletic Federation, he also faces the prospect of losing his 1987 world 100 metres crown and the world record of 9.83 he set at the championships in Rome.

But in an interview with the mass circulation newspaper Bild, the Canadian said he was not worried about the possibility of his name being erased from the record books.

"Even if I am stripped of the world record there will be plenty of chances to win it back," he said. "I will prove who the best sprinter in the world is. I have not reached my potential."

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Lewis was awarded the Seoul 100 metres title after Johnson's disqualification.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

World record

WARSAW, Aug 11. (Reuters): A Pole has broken his own world record by bouncing a tennis ball on his head for an hour and 45 minutes — 17 minutes longer than his previous best. Janusz Chomatek bounced the ball on his head 15,225 times at a rate of 145 times a minute.

Admiral's Cup

PLYMOUTH, England, Aug 11. (UPI): Britain won the Admiral's Cup yesterday for the first time in eight years, coming out on top of Denmark by just 17.5 points in one of the most exciting Cup series on record.

Rumours denied

ROME, Aug 11. (Reuters): Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona has denied persistent rumours he wants to leave Napoli. "I never said I didn't want to go back to Napoli. You try and find a tape in which I said I didn't want to return," Maradona said.

GCC soccer

MANAMA, Bahrain, Aug 11. (AP): Al Wasl of the United Arab Emirates moved a step closer to the Coca Cola seventh club soccer championship title when they defeated Bahraini hosts Muharraq 2-1 yesterday at the national stadium in Isa Town.

Scottish Cup

LONDON, Aug 11. (Reuters): Results of Scottish League Cup first round soccer matches on Wednesday: Arbroath 1 East Stirling 0, Cowdenbeath 0 Montrose 4 (After extra time, score after 90 minutes 0-0). East Fife 2 Queen's Park 2 (After extra time, 3-2. Queen's Park won 7-6 on penalties). Stirling 0 Berwick 3, Stranraer 3 Brechin 4 (After extra time, 3-3).

Swedish star

STOCKHOLM, Aug 11. (Reuters): Former Swedish tennis star Bjorn Borg will close the Monaco headquarters of his international business operation, the liquidator of his ailing fashion empire said yesterday.

Soccer passes

ROTTERDAM, Aug 11. (UPI): Holland was this weekend to become the first country to introduce soccer passes for fans following their teams on away matches, an innovation that has brought emotions to the boiling point in this country of soccer lovers.

Options open

WELLINGTON, Aug 11. (Reuters): Nigeria said it wanted Britain to attend next year's Commonwealth Games but would keep its options open on a ban if Britons joined rebel cricket and rugby union tours of South Africa.

Dress rehearsal

BARCELONA, Spain, Aug 11. (Reuters): Barcelona's Montjuich stadium rebuilt to host the 1992 Olympic Games, got its first dress rehearsal today, the opening day of Spain's National Athletics Championships.

Cup qualifier

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Aug 11. (Reuters): The Concacaf World Cup soccer qualifying match on Sunday between El Salvador and Trinidad/Tobago has been switched to Honduras from Miami, the Trinidad and Tobago Football Association reported on Wednesday.

Hick keeps Worcestershire on course for victory

LONDON, Aug 11. (Reuters): Graeme Hick put leaders Worcestershire within sight of their ninth English County Championship win of the season yesterday.

The Zimbabwe-born batsman hit a sparkling 72 which enabled Worcestershire to declare at 302 for six, 62 ahead of Somerset. He then took a wicket to help limit the hosts to 55 for three by the close.

Lancashire wicketkeeper Warren Hegg was left cursing the one that got away despite equalling a 59-year-old county record.

Hegg took seven catches to equal Bill Farrinwood's haul against Kent at Old Trafford in 1930, but the one he dropped against Derbyshire could prove disastrous.

Derbyshire were still 13 runs short of the follow-on target of 222 when Bernie Maher

edged Pakistan's Wasim Akram but Hegg, leaping to his right, spilled the chance.

Maher stayed to add another 106 with Paul Newman whose unbeaten 86 carried

Derbyshire to within 18 runs of Lancashire.

Lancashire paceman Phillip DeFreitas, who has decided not to accompany the England rebels to South Africa, took six for 116.

At Colchester: Essex 391 for six declared in 103 overs. Northamptonshire 42 for one in 12 overs and light stopped play.

At Eastbourne: Sussex 258 in 87.4 overs and 133 for five (A. Wells 56, P. Speight 43).

Leicestershire 167 in 79.2 overs (J. Whitaker 53, A. Dodemaide five for 77).

At Bournemouth: Warwickshire 229 in

93.3 overs and 24 for no wicket. Hampshire 103 for five declared in 51.2 overs.

At Weston-Super-Mare: Somerset 240 in 79.3 overs and 55 for three. Worcestershire 302 for six declared in 96.5 overs (G. Hick 72, D. D'Oliveira 52, P. Neale 44 not out).

At Cheltenham: Middlesex 222 in 78 overs and 206 for seven (M. Roseberry 51).

Gloucestershire 122 in 39.3 (J. Embury

seven for 27).

At Canterbury: Kent 346 in 104 overs and 16 for no wicket. Surrey 302 for six declared in 96.3 overs (A. Stewart 69, Greig 69).

At Chesterfield: Lancashire 372 in 79 overs and 64 for three. Derbyshire 344 in 89.3 overs (P. Newman 86 not out, C. Adams 79, P. DeFreitas six for 116).

Aussies pile on the agony

Taylor and Marsh make Ashes history

NOTTINGHAM, England, Aug 11. (Reuters): Australia's batsmen continued their record-breaking ways as they inflicted more punishment on England's demoralised bowlers in the fifth Test at Trent Bridge today.

By the close on the second day, Australia had amassed 560 for five and were showing no sign of putting England out of their misery with a declaration.

But England had one brief moment of glory when Test debutant Devon Malcolm had prolific run-scorer Steve Waugh caught for a duck by captain David Gower near the close of play for his first Test wicket.

The principal Australian destroyer was once again opener Mark Taylor, who scored a magnificent 219 to become the second highest Australian run-scorer in an Ashes series behind Sir Donald Bradman.

Opening partner Geoff Marsh hit 138, his highest Test score, and the pair's first wicket stand of 329 eclipsed the previous highest of 323 for England versus Australia matches. David Boon joined in with an aggressive 73 and skipper Alan Border was 46 not out at the close.

But Gower and his men knew that things might have been even worse had Malcolm not managed his coup against the remarkable Waugh for the only bright spot on another depressing day for English supporters.

The day's headlines belonged to Taylor. Having shared in a history-making first wicket stand with Marsh, he went on to hit 23 boundaries in all during his 461-ball stay, which ended when



Taylor: hit a magnificent 219

he was stumped by wicketkeeper Jack Russell off Cook.

Taylor and Marsh were made to work hard for survival at the start of the day by impressive early spells from pacemen Angus Fraser and Malcolm.

Soon, however, records rather than wickets were falling. Having advanced from their overnight 301 to 320, Taylor and

Marsh had compiled the highest partnership for any wicket in Tests at Trent Bridge.

Four runs later their opening stand became the best in Ashes history a record held for 77 years by England's Jack Hobbs and Wilfred Rhodes.

The end proved something of an anti-climax, even to English eyes. Marsh aimed an agricul-

tural sweep at the 382nd ball he faced, pitched outside off stump by left-arm spinner Nick Cook, and lobbed a gentle catch to Botham at slip via the top edge.

By then Marsh had helped Taylor create the fifth highest opening stand in Test history ... and the 25th best for any wicket.

Any hopes England held of further success were put on ice for another 34 overs, however, as Australia's surviving opener and new partner David Boon added 101 before Cook struck again.

Yesterday Marsh also survived a shaky start to reach 50 for the first time in the series and then march to his century in 280 minutes.

For England it was a sad start for their new-look bowling attack, forced on the selectors after the announcement of the rebel side planning a tour of South Africa.

Malcolm, brought in to spearhead the attack, bowled a fiery opening spell after Border had won the toss and elected to bat.

The bespectacled Derbyshire bowler came close to having Marsh leg before with only his seventh delivery and had both openers ducking several times to avoid his short-pitched deliveries.

Fraser was the steadier, maintaining pressure on the batsmen till the end and conceded only 54 runs in his 24 overs.

He nearly made a breakthrough when Taylor edged the ball into the slips but the diving Moxon managed only to get his fingertips to the hard chance.

But Fraser's effort was tarnished by the 10 no balls that he

bowled.

Another Test debutant, batsman Mike Atherton, also made his mark with a competent spell of off-spin bowling at a time when the batsmen were already well set.

The two specialist spinners, Cook and Eddie Hemmings, made little impression on the batsmen.

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first Innings (overnight 301-0).
G. Marsh c Botham b Cook 138
M. Taylor at Russell b Cook 219
D. Boon at Russell b Cook 73
A. Border not out 46
D. Jones c Gower b Fraser 22
S. Waugh c Gower b Malcolm 0
I. Healy not out 5
Extras (b-6 lb-23, w-3 nb-25) 50
Total (for five wickets) 560
Fall of wickets: 1-329 2-430 3-502 4-543 5-563
To bat: T. Hohns, M. Hughes, G. Lawson, T. Alderman.
Bowling: Malcolm 38-2-141-1, Fraser 46-17-91-1, Botham 30-4-103-0, Hemmings 33-9-81-0, Cook 40-10-91-3, Atherton 7-0-24-0.

W. Germans triumph

IPOH, Malaysia, Aug 11. (Agencies): Holders West Germany crushed Argentina 7-1 in the Junior World Cup field hockey tournament today to stay on top of Group A due to goal difference.

While West Germany had an easy time, Australia were made to struggle for a 1-0 victory by hosts Malaysia. The only goal came in the 10th minute of the second half through Grey Corbett.

West Germany and Australia both have six points each but the former has scored 22 goals against 12 by the latter. In the only other match played today,

the Netherlands earned their first points of the tournament by beating Egypt 5-0.

West Germany led 5-1 at half time. Three of their goals were scored by Andreas Becker while the other four came through Wolf Nonn, Andre Scheff, Uwe Raunch and Frederick Ness.

Yesterday West Germany overpowered underdog Egypt 10-1.

In other third-day games, Pakistan edged South Korea 4-3, Spain beat the United States 1-0 and England and the Soviet Union played to a 1-1 tie.

Middleton takes lead

TOYOTA'S Graham Middleton, the pre-rally favourite, took over the top spot in the Autospot National Rally Championship by winning his second event of the season, the Kayel Graphics Rally on July 1.

Ably assisted by co-driver Paul Watkins, Middleton pushed his Group-N Celica Turbo 4WD hard throughout the seven stage event as he moved back up from 9th place to 2nd after losing time to a puncture early in the rally. He was almost prepared to settle for runner-up honours, which would in any case have given him enough points to lead the series. Fortune smiled, however, and Colin McRae's Ford Sierra RS Cosworth crashed out on the final stage, giving the Toyota driver 1st overall and maximum points.

Also finishing in the top ten was the 2nd-seeded Group-N Celica Turbo 4WD of Scottish teammates Jimmy Girvan and Campbell Roy. Girvan came in 9th despite being slowed by an early puncture and overheating problems. In other Toyota results, the Corolla crews of David Evans/David Smith and Chris Munnings/Allison Cornwell took 1st and 2nd, respectively, in their Group-N class.

India change Nehru Cup dates

NEW DELHI, Aug 11. (Reuters): India has shifted the dates of the Nehru Cup to enable the West Indies and World Cup champions Australia to play in the one-day cricket tournament, an organising committee spokesman said today.

The two teams will join England, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and hosts India in the limited overs tournament from

October 17 to November 2, instead of October 20 to November 12 as previously announced, he said.

The West Indies had initially declined to take part in the event, marking the centenary of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, because they were committed to playing a charity match in Toronto on November 5.

The Australians had also turned down the invitation, saying the tournament clashed with the domestic season.

"The West Indies team will leave on November 3 to reach Toronto in time for their match," the spokesman said.

"Similarly, Australia will be back home before November 8 to receive New Zealand," he added.

Charity match

ARSENAL meet Liverpool this afternoon in the Charity Shield match at the Wembley Stadium. The Charity Shield match acts as the curtain-raiser to the English soccer season.

Last season, Arsenal beat Liverpool 2-0 in the last match of the season to take the League title while Liverpool won the League Cup tournament.

Arsenal beat Liverpool 1-0 in a four-team tournament last month and are tipped as favourites to win again today.

Golf greats cause stir at PGA tourney



Palmer watches his drive from the tenth tee during first round play. (Reuters wirephoto)

HAWTHORN WOODS, Ill., Aug 11. (Reuters): Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus and Tom Watson — who represent four decades of golfing supremacy — held a reunion of sorts at the PGA Championship yesterday.

Mike Reid and Leonard Thompson shared a one-shot lead after an opening round that shattered scoring records, but the trio of golf greats — Palmer in particular — caused the biggest stir as their names filled the leaderboard.

Palmer, who turns 60 next month, thrilled his ever faithful army of followers by shooting a four-under-par 68.

Nicklaus, approaching his 50th birthday, matched Palmer's score, and the soon-to-be 40-year-old Watson went them one better to trail the co-leaders by a single stroke.

"It's absolutely flabbergasting," Nicklaus said about the birdie explosion.

Forty-nine players broke par on a warm, calm day at Kemper Lakes. The previous PGA Championship record for sub-par scores in a round was 44 set last year at Oak Tree.

Besides the barrage of birdies, there were nine eagles — two by Chris Perry — and a hole in one by Mark O'Meara.

Tom Kite, who along with Perry was tied with Watson at five-under 67, said: "I'm shocked to see this. I thought this was one of the most difficult golf courses I ever played in a PGA."

Joining Palmer and Nicklaus at 68, one shot better than the previous course record set by Larry Nelson in an exhibition, were Briton Ian Woosnam, Ben Crenshaw, Phil Blackmar, O'Meara and Dave

Rummells. Masters champion Nick Faldo of Britain and US Open champion Curtis Strange were among a group of 17 at 70.

With Chicago's fabled blustery winds lying low, the sprawling, 10-year-old public course, located 40 kilometres northwest of the windy city, proved extremely inviting.

Short-hitting Mike Reid had surprised the experts by taking the early first-round lead with his 66 but that proved to be no shock at all compared to what came later.

Palmer, as if stepping out of footage from his glory days, birdied five straight holes from the fourth and then recovered from a bogey at 10 with two more birdies to share the lead at six under.

"A couple of birdies got them going," Palmer said about the boisterous fans that have backed him for 30 years. "And that got me going."

Bogeys on the last two holes, however, dropped him a stroke behind Watson.

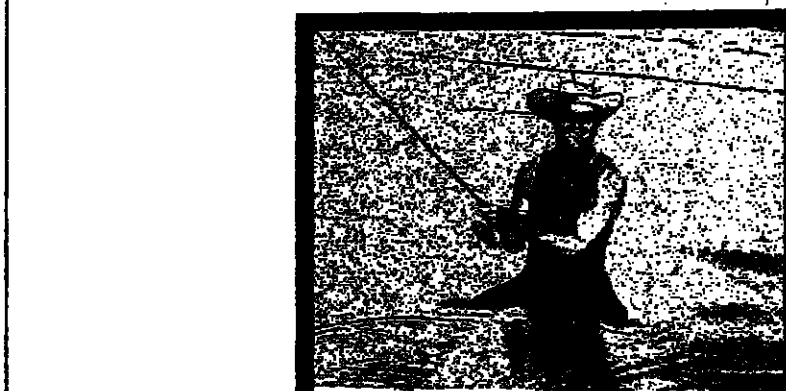
"It's special to see the champions of the past years shooting good rounds of golf," Nicklaus said.

"Ten years ago I would have been hoping to see them score 76," he said. "Now I'm pleased to see them shooting 67 and 68. And I'm glad I'm one of them, too."

With little wind, scores figured to be low on the long, wide-open course.

But who could have predicted that Palmer would join the birdie party?

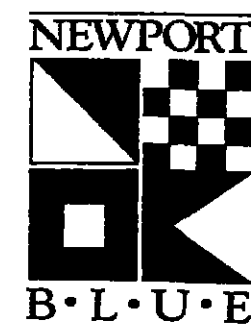
Palmer's first Tour victory came in 1955. His last regular Tour title came at the 1973 Desert Classic.



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